

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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June 29, 2019

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Taylor F. Barras
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

Honorable John A. Alario, Jr.
Louisiana Senate President
Louisiana Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: Line item veto of House Bill 2 of the 2019 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Barras and President Alario:

Please allow this letter to inform you that I have signed House Bill 2 of the 2019 Regular Session. However, I have exercised my line item veto authority granted to me to veto six items.

The capital outlay budget I submitted to the legislature recommended \$679 million in Priority 1 general obligation bond appropriations and an additional \$128 million in Priority 2, allowing for \$30 million in remaining general obligation bond capacity for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. This recommendation was the result of a multiyear effort made by both my administration and the legislature to rein in a capital outlay budget that was bloated by years of overspending. Practically, my budget recommendation would have allowed for every project with a Priority 1 or Priority 2 appropriation to receive funding in the upcoming fiscal year.

However, as finally passed by the legislature, House Bill 2 contains \$767 million in Priority 1 general obligation bond appropriations and an additional \$305 million in Priority 2, totaling more than \$235 million above the general obligation bond capacity for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The bill now contains \$1.3 billion in Priority 5 appropriations, or a 30% *increase* above the budget I submitted. Not only does the capital outlay budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 contain appropriations that are not possible for the upcoming year, it also increases possible spending in out years by more than 30%. Further, this will create significant challenges in this year and in following years to generate the capacity necessary to fund the infrastructure projects needed in this state.

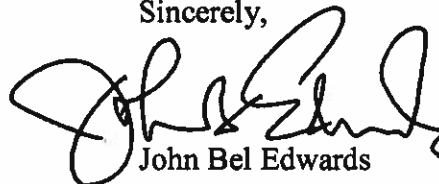
Honorable Taylor F. Barras
Honorable John A. Alario, Jr.
June 28, 2019
Page 2

I have exercised my line item veto authority as follows:

- Veto No. 1:** Delete Page 30 of 134, Lines 18-24: Authorizes \$13,555,000 for Science Building Renovations at LSU Eunice (Acadia).
- Veto No. 2:** Delete Page 30 of 134, Lines 30-34: Authorizes \$500,000 for Acadian Center Kitchen Repairs at LSU Eunice (Acadia).
- Veto No. 3:** Delete Page 35 of 134, Lines 15-22: Authorizes \$520,000 for Outdoor Lighting for Multipurpose Venue, Community College Baseball, Softball, Student, and Community Events at Bossier Community College (Bossier).
- Veto No. 4:** Delete Page 41 of 134, Lines 37-42: Authorizes \$520,000 for Infrastructure Improvements for Acadia Parish Public Works Complex, Planning and Construction (Acadia).
- Veto No. 5:** Delete Page 43 of 134, Lines 31-35: Authorizes \$250,000 for South Bossier Park, Construction of New Pavilions, Planning and Construction (Bossier).
- Veto No. 6:** Delete Page 50 of 134, Lines 1-8: Authorizes \$3,150,000 for Bucktown Harbor Multi-Purpose Pavilion, Planning and Construction (Jefferson).

Enclosed is a copy of the signed version of House Bill 2. I have sent the original to the Secretary of State.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards
Governor

enclosure