

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

May 20, 2018

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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

RE: Veto of House Bill 129 of 2018 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Barras:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 129 of the 2018 Regular Session.

This bill, as originally filed, was a bill I strongly supported, as it would have given the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) the ability to be more efficient in the repair, renovation, or construction of buildings for its operations. However, in the House Ways and Means Committee, the bill was amended to require the approval of the House Ways and Means and Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committees for any such work. This additional requirement would make LDWF less efficient and would interject political considerations into the decisions about the proper management of LDWF facilities. Further, this amendment is a clear violation of Art. II, Sec. 2 of the Louisiana Constitution, which provides for a separation of powers between the branches of state government. Outside of the appropriation process, decisions about the maintenance or construction of facilities in executive branch agencies should not require legislative approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

cc: The Honorable John Alario
Louisiana Senate President