

June 12, 2020

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
President
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 132 of the 2020 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 132 of the 2020 Regular Session.

Senate Bill 132 requires that the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) approve any contract or cooperative endeavor agreement with a value greater than or equal to \$25 million. This requirement violates Article 2, Section 2 of the Louisiana Constitution in that it requires legislative approval of a purely executive branch function, namely, the execution of contracts and CEAs. However, this does not mean that the legislature does not have a significant role in oversight of executive branch functions, including contracts, as the legislature alone has the authority of appropriation. All executive branch contracts are subject to legislative appropriation. Further, I have ensured that my administration has fully cooperated with and respected the authority of the entire legislature and JLCB. I do not believe there has ever been a single instance where anyone in my administration has refused to appear before a legislative committee, including the JLCB. That will continue as long as I am Governor. However, I cannot support a bill that cedes a purely executive branch function to the legislature.

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards
Governor

cc: Honorable Clay Schexnayder
Louisiana Speaker of the House