

July 9, 1999

Honorable Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: HOUSE BILL 1464 BY REPRESENTATIVE WILKERSON

To direct the Department of Transportation and Development to substantially thin the trees and cut and remove brush at the intersection of Interstate Highway 20 and Louisiana Highway 149 in Grambling; to cut the grass; to clear the area of all litter, yard waste, trash, and debris; and to provide for related matters.

Dear Mr. Speer:

The maintenance of the right of way on all interstate highways within Louisiana is a statutory responsibility that rests with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD). The determination to schedule such maintenance is based upon many factors, including funding, costs, benefits, equipment availability, personnel, public input, etc. The LDOTD is the appropriate agency to prioritize and perform its statutory duty with a full and complete consideration of all these factors.

Because I believe there is merit to the purpose of the bill, I have contacted the LDOTD and have been informed that the interstate maintenance sought to be accomplished in the bill has been scheduled to be let in October. Therefore, it is not necessary to legislatively mandate what is to be done in the normal course of the department's operations.

For this reason I am vetoing and returning House Bill 1464 to you.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

jw