

July 6, 1999

Honorable Michael S. Baer, III
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 894 BY SENATOR CRAVINS

To amend and reenact R.S. 33:1996, relative to fire protection for municipalities; to provide for scheduled paid vacation days for firemen; and to provide for related matters.

Dear Mr. Baer:

I share the legislative intent of Senate Bill No. 894, to insure that those who serve our communities by knowingly risking their own health and safety, not only receive our most profound appreciation, but that they be fairly compensated. The same, of course, should be true for all such local government employees. Since the passage of the bill, representatives of various local governments have advised their concern that they, and not the state legislature, should determine their employee benefits in view of their budgetary constraints and the will of their constituents. They urge that the state is prevented by the Louisiana Constitution from imposing such a direct unfunded mandate. I share these concerns.

For these reasons I am vetoing and returning Senate Bill 894 to you.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

jw