

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



THOMAS L. ENRIGHT, JR.
EXECUTIVE COUNSEL

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 20, 2014

The Honorable Alfred Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

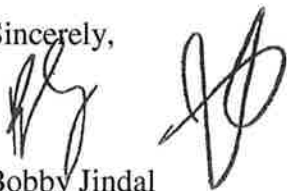
Re: House Bill No. 437 by Representative Jim Fannin

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 437 adds an additional layer of bureaucracy to the contracting process, which could delay the contracting process and introduce uncertainty. Such uncertainty could discourage businesses from contracting with the state and competing to provide high quality services to our citizens. Partnering with the private sector has saved Louisiana taxpayers millions of dollars, while improving services for our people. Unlike smaller value Requests For Proposals (RFPs), large value contracts often have a very small pool of potential bidders due to their scale and scope. In order to ensure that we have the widest and most competitive process possible, it is important to ensure that these companies have a streamlined, fair, and transparent bidding process.

I am committed to such a process to achieve the highest quality services for the best expenditure of taxpayer dollars, which is why the Division of Administration has sought continually to improve the RFP and contracting processes. That's also why I have instructed agencies to work with the Legislature and provide opportunities for input and oversight on these significant RFPs and contracts. In addition, this year, I have signed Senate Bill No. 480 by Senator Mike Walsworth, which Representative Fannin graciously sponsored on the House side of the Legislature and which streamlines and clarifies the Procurement Code. However, House Bill No. 437 could have unintended negative consequences and, therefore, I have vetoed it and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,


Bobby Jindal
Governor

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House of Representatives
Clerk's Office

