

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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June 28, 2023

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
Senate President
Louisiana Senate
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RECEIVED

JUN 30 2023

SENATE
SECRETARY'S
OFFICE

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 6 of the 2023 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Chairman Allain has been a champion in the legislature on leading the efforts to achieve tax reform in the State of Louisiana. However, the bill was presented to the legislature as companion legislation to serve as an offset for Senate Bill 1. With Senate Bill 1 having been vetoed for the reasons stated in the Senate Bill 1 veto message, this companion legislation has also been vetoed.

For decades, Louisiana's economic competitiveness has been hampered by a complicated tax structure. Historically, this has hindered Louisiana's growth in demonstrable ways, especially when benchmarking with other Southern states. My administration supports efforts to simplify and streamline our tax system in ways that will improve our competitiveness while providing adequate resources for Louisiana to continue to invest in important priorities such as higher education, workforce development, child and family services, public infrastructure (roads, bridges, highways, broadband, water and sewer systems), coastal protection and more, with a commitment to equitable deployment of state government resources at the fore.

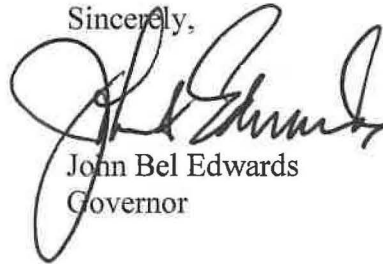
Louisiana's future will not only depend on adequate investments in traditional government services, but our future will also hinge upon investments in smart and strategic economic development initiatives. Economic Development incentives are critical tools for business attraction and retention, and the Quality Jobs program – a program that incentivizes companies that pay more than double the minimum wage – has served as an impactful tool for Louisiana's economic development efforts.

While I am proud to have achieved fiscal stability and to leave Louisiana's finances in a stronger and healthier state than how I found them, there is indeed more work to be done. The next opportunity to address tax reform, including the opportunity to make strategic adjustments to

Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
June 28, 2023
Page Two

Louisiana's economic development toolkit, will come in the fiscal session of 2025 if not sooner. I again commend Chairman Allain for his accomplishments and leadership in Louisiana tax system reforms, and I urge the next Administration and Legislature to continue making advancements toward a fair, stable, predictable, more competitive, and equitable tax framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

enclosure

cc: Honorable Clay Schexnayder
Speaker of the House of Representatives