

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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June 26, 2017



SPEAKER'S OFFICE
VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Taylor F. Barras
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RE: Veto of House Bill 598 of 2017 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Barras:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 598 of the 2017 Regular Session. As originally drafted, House Bill 598 was part of a transportation package that included a transportation funding bill. It further would have provided for additional transparency and accountability from the Department of Transportation and Development. Providing for additional funds to meet our critical infrastructure needs while at the same time providing for better accountability for the use of those funds has been, and continues to be, a critical priority of my administration.

However, this bill, as amended, does not meet those standards. The amendments to this bill allow for the legislature to make changes to the Highway Priority Program by inserting or substituting projects. This would inappropriately inject politics into a process that should be based on data and needs. This would erode public trust and confidence in the Highway Priority Program. When combined with the failure of House Bill 632 to become law, it is clear that House Bill 598, in its final form, would further prevent the Department of Transportation and Development from meeting the infrastructure needs of the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

cc: Honorable Glenn Koepp