

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

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June 30, 2023

House of Representatives
Clerk's Office

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
President
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: Line Item Vetoes in House Bill 2 of the 2023 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder and President Cortez:

Please allow this letter to inform you that I have signed House Bill 2 of the 2023 Regular Session. The enrolled House Bill 2 contains \$1.74 billion in Priority 1 general obligation bond appropriations, \$101.7 million in Priority 2 general obligation bond appropriations, and \$5.9 billion in Priority 5 general obligation bond appropriations. Even further, the surplus cash is over appropriated by \$7,190,550 above the amount of surplus available for appropriation.

The overall magnitude of the bill as finally passed is far beyond the state's capacity to fund it in any reasonable way or amount of time. The intent of the capital outlay bill is to provide for a 5-year capital outlay budget. However, the general obligation bond portion of the enrolled House Bill 2 is well over a 10-year plan. Only about 10% of the Priority 5 in the bill as finally passed would be able to move forward in FY 25 for projects that were planned with a cash means of finance in FY 24. There is no possible way to veto enough projects to bring the bill back in balance, nor is vetoing the entire bill an option because there is no guarantee that another attempt would yield a different result. The only option going forward is to manage the projects through the Bond Commission and through the next administration and legislature. However, I have exercised my line item veto authority granted to me to veto 18 items.

I have exercised my line item veto authority as follows:

Veto No. 1: Delete Lines 30-34 on Page 54 of 161

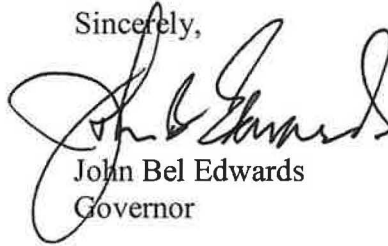
Veto No. 2: Delete Lines 9-13 on Page 56 of 161

- Veto No. 3: Delete Lines 1-6 on Page 57 of 161**
- Veto No. 4: Delete Lines 23-26 on Page 78 of 161**
- Veto No. 5: Delete Lines 27-31 on Page 78 of 161**
- Veto No. 6: Delete Lines 32-35 on Page 78 of 161**
- Veto No. 7: Delete Lines 36-40 on Page 78 of 161**
- Veto No. 8: Delete Lines 29-33 on Page 80 of 161**
- Veto No. 9: Delete Lines 34-38 on Page 80 of 161**
- Veto No. 10: Delete Lines 25-30 on Page 84 of 161**
- Veto No. 11: Delete Lines 47-49 on Page 87 of 161**
- Veto No. 12: Delete Lines 1-3 on Page 93 of 161**
- Veto No. 13: Delete Lines 23-31 on Page 93 of 161**
- Veto No. 14: Delete Lines 26-32 on Page 105 of 161**
- Veto No. 15: Delete Lines 11-19 on Page 124 of 161**
- Veto No. 16: Delete Lines 9-19 on Page 126 of 161**
- Veto No. 17: Delete Lines 35-39 on Page 129 of 161**
- Veto No. 18: Delete Lines 18-23 on Page 130 of 161**

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder
Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
June 30, 2023
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Enclosed is a copy of the signed version of House Bill 2. I have sent the original to the Secretary of State.

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 "E".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

enclosure