

July 7, 2009

Mr. Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 785 by Representative Jones
DISTRICTS/SPECIAL: Creates the St. Mary Hydroelectric Authority as a political subdivision within St. Mary Parish

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 785 by Representative Sam Jones creates the St. Mary Hydroelectric Authority. I have serious concerns about the scope of authority given to this new political subdivision, especially as it relates to commerce and the State's natural resources. For instance, this entity would have authority to charge rates "for services and goods provided by or through the Wax Lake Outlet and the Atchafalaya River" and to "control in order to utilize and distribute the waters of the rivers and streams of the Wax Lake Outlet and Atchafalaya River watershed." This grant of authority appears plainly excessive to the stated mission of the Authority.

For this reason, I have vetoed House Bill No. 785 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

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