

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



Post Office Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 23, 2010

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

Re: House Bill No. 386 by Representative Hutter
Economic Development: Requires the Department of Economic Development to report annually certain information on business growth in the State of Louisiana

Dear Mr. Speer:

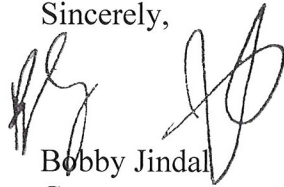
House Bill No. 386 seeks to require additional reporting by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and the Division of Administration. On June 21, 2010, I signed into law House Bills 406, 553, and 559 by Representative Wayne Waddell. These bills require that dollars spent and jobs created by the Mega-Project Development Fund and the Rapid Response Fund be published online, providing greater transparency and accountability on economic development activities.

The Department of Economic Development (LED) indicates that House Bill No. 386 would negatively affect the attraction of new business to Louisiana in two ways. First, the legislation requires the reporting of revenue generated by each new business. This is proprietary information that is statutorily confidential when reported to the Department of Revenue for tax purposes.

Second, House Bill No. 386 seeks a listing of all LED's business prospects that are "nonconfidential." The only LED prospects with express statutory confidentiality are those projects with published confidentiality determinations, generally no more than three or four at a time. Meanwhile, LED has dozens of other prospects in various stages of discussions—from initial information requests to Requests for Proposals to contractual negotiations. This bill can be interpreted to require LED to publish a notice for every company contact made, even casual inquiries at an industry conference or trade show. Publishing this type of information will undoubtedly deter businesses from relocating to Louisiana.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 386 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Bobby Jindal
Governor

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9:00 AM
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House of Representatives
Clerk's Office