



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

March 31, 2014

The Honorable Natalie Tennant
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Building 1, Suite 157-K
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0770

Re: Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4343

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return the Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4343. This bill aims to attract new businesses to economically depressed areas of the state by authorizing broad tax exemptions and credits for locating within a defined district, employing residents of the district, and basing operations on state-of-the-art technology.

The goals of the "Project Launchpad Act" are admirable, and I applaud its stakeholders and the Legislature for their hard work on this unique economic development effort. However, I am advised by the State Tax Department that the bill, as presently drafted, is problematic and unworkable for multiple reasons. The bill, for instance, contains a host of technical errors and inconsistencies. The Department of Commerce has also expressed concerns about the bill and the administrative challenges it would pose, if signed.

In light of the foregoing, I must disapprove and return the Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4343.

Sincerely,

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

cc: The Hon. Jeffrey Kessler ✓
President of the Senate

The Hon. Timothy R. Miley
Speaker of the House of Delegates