

July 11, 2003

The Honorable Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: House Bill No. 1797 by Representative Kenney
AGRICULTURE: Provides relative to importation of cervid species

Dear Mr. Speer:

The thrust of House Bill No. 1797 is an earnest attempt to put into law appropriate conditions under which various deer or other animals of any cervid species determined to be susceptible to Chronic Wasting Disease may be imported into Louisiana.

Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7 vests control and supervision of the wildlife of this state in the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Nothing short of a constitutional amendment can change this mandate. Yet there is no role for the commission provided for in House Bill No. 1797. Without the participation of the commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, I cannot be comfortable that we will have done all that we can to eliminate the risk of irreversible damage to the people and wildlife of this state.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 1797 and am returning it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

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