

July 14, 2003

The Honorable Michael S. Baer  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Senate Bill No. 89 by Senator McPherson  
PUBLIC CONTRACTS: Provides for a small business program for information  
technology.

Dear Mr. Baer:

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 89 is to set a goal to direct a percentage of state computer hardware and software purchases to small companies. If this bill were to become effective, it would erode the competitive and cost saving processes implemented by the Office of Information Technology. To date, these processes have leveraged the state's buying power resulting in awards in hardware and software discounts ranging from 15-30 percent. Further, the Office of Information Technology's competitive process already promotes Louisiana companies giving agencies a wide range of choices including 30 contracts for personal computers (20 of these contracts are with small Louisiana companies). I am advised that eroding this competitive procurement process would result in higher prices and potential abuses.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill No. 89 and am returning it to the Senate.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

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