

**BOBBY JINDAL**  
GOVERNOR



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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

July 2, 2010

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

Re: House Bill No. 277 by Representative Sam Jones

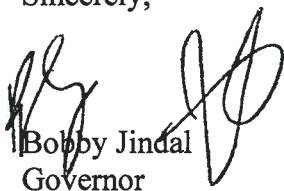
Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 277 seeks to give the newly created St. Mary Hydro-Electric District sole authority over the use of certain river and water resources and the use of all funding derived from these resources. The larger goal of this bill – to promote hydro-electric power - is a laudable goal, but fundamental problems with this legislation remain.

This bill directly conflicts with another expression of the Legislature this session as to how the state should regulate hydroelectric power. Specifically, Senate Bill No. 183 by Sen. N. Gautreaux calls for the state to manage all future hydroelectric projects as well as the revenues generated by these projects. I am concerned with setting up a regulatory structure that would result in 63 parishes operating under one structure that is managed by the state and one parish operating under a completely different structure. Additionally, the Attorney General recently issued an opinion after this bill was introduced indicating that water is a natural resource of the state, requiring it to be managed by the state in a similar fashion to our other resources like fisheries, oil, and gas.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 277 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Bobby Jindal  
Governor