

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CHARLESTON

April 7, 2010

The Honorable Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia

Dear Secretary Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14, Article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove Enrolled Senate Bill No. 169.

Enrolled Senate Bill No. 169 amends article fifteen, chapter thirty-one of the West Virginia Code, which is the West Virginia Economic Development Authority (WVEDA) statute. The bill provides that the WVEDA shall consider several factors when evaluating loans for tourism projects, including whether the project will create a specific number of jobs, whether the jobs meet specific compensation levels, and whether the jobs provide benefits. However, the bill also provides that the WVEDA may not deny a loan solely on the basis that it does not create a specific number of jobs, the jobs will not meet certain compensation levels, or the jobs do not pay benefits.

It has been my philosophy from day one that public moneys should be used only for projects that create good jobs for working

West Virginians. While this bill would require the WVEDA to consider a project's impact on job creation, it would permit the lending of taxpayer dollars for projects that do not create lasting jobs or jobs with good pay. This is contrary to my philosophy.

I acknowledge that tourism needs access to every available development tool, and I will sit down with this bill's sponsors and the industry to identify areas where the state can help. However, for the reasons above, I must veto this legislation.

Very truly yours,

Joe Manchin III,

Governor.

cc: The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin

The Honorable Richard Thompson