

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CHARLESTON

April 3, 2012

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

Dear Ms. Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 477. The purpose of this bill is to regulate the possession and maintenance of exotic animals. However, the scope of this bill is broader than necessary to accomplish its intended purpose. In addition, I have concerns that the funding mechanism contained in the bill is inadequate to meet the administrative requirements placed on the Division of Natural Resources and the appropriate county authorities. While I support the purpose of the legislation and I believe that the state must do what it can to ensure the safety of our citizens and appropriately regulate the possession and maintenance of exotic animals, we must take such steps in a more focused and fiscally responsible manner.

For these reasons, I must veto the legislation.

Very truly yours,

Earl Ray Tomblin,

Governor.

cc: The Honorable Jeffrey V. Kessler

The Honorable Richard Thompson