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**State of Louisiana**  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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July 19, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Honorable John M. Schroder  
Louisiana State Treasurer  
Chairman of the State Bond Commission  
P.O. Box 44154  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Treasurer Schroder and members of the Bond Commission:

It has come to my attention that the New Orleans City Council, with the support, approval, and cooperation of the Mayor, Chief of Police, and District Attorney, has pledged not to enforce the laws of the State of Louisiana. The particular laws at issue relate to criminal and/or civil laws prohibiting abortion in this State, the most recent of which is Act No. 545 of the 2022 Regular Session (see attached statements from the City Council, Chief of Police, and District Attorney). It is my opinion that until City officials confirm that they will enforce all Louisiana laws, the City of New Orleans should not incur debt (including through the State or other local governmental entities) at the expense of Louisiana taxpayers.

As you all are aware, the Bond Commission has broad oversight in approving the sale of bonds or other obligations issued or sold by the State and its political subdivisions.<sup>1</sup> As such, no parish, municipality, or other political subdivision may incur debt without the prior approval of the Bond Commission.<sup>2</sup> On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States issued *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*<sup>3</sup> which overruled *Roe v. Wade*.<sup>4</sup> *Dobbs* held that the federal Constitution does not provide a right to abortion; and, thus, returned the power to regulate abortion back to States. With the reversal of *Roe*, State laws that recognize the dignity and value of the life of the unborn may now be given force and effect.

The City of New Orleans evidently believes that it has the authority to refuse to enforce laws validly enacted by the citizens of Louisiana through their elected representatives simply

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<sup>1</sup> La. Const. art. VII, §8(B).

<sup>2</sup> La. R.S. 39:1410.60(A).

<sup>3</sup> 142 S.Ct. 2228 (2022).

<sup>4</sup> 410 U.S. 113; 93 S.Ct. 705; 35 L.Ed.2d 147 (1973).

because certain City officials (City Council, Mayor, Chief of Police, Sheriff, and District Attorney) disagree with those laws. Though all of these officials, including the Council members, took an oath of office to support and enforce the laws of this State, they appear to have decided that some State laws are not worthy of enforcement. Nothing in the statutes, the City Charter, or the State Constitution permits these officials to blatantly ignore State law, conspire not to enforce it, and violate their oaths of office in this manner. In fact, La. Const. art. VI, §9(B) prohibits this very conduct. New Orleans City officials have essentially decided that they can opt-out of certain State laws. They do not have this power, and their actions set a dangerous precedent.

As Attorney General and member of the Bond Commission, it is my belief that a parish or municipality should not benefit from the hard-working taxpayers of this State while ignoring laws validly enacted by the people through their representatives. In light of the City's open defiance of the will of the people of Louisiana, I urge the Bond Commission to defer any applications for the City of New Orleans, Orleans Parish, and any local governmental entity or political subdivision under its purview. In addition, any other funding that will directly benefit the City of New Orleans should also be paused until such time as the Council, Mayor, Chief of Police, Sheriff, and District Attorney have met with and affirmed that they will comply with and enforce the laws of this State and cooperate with any State officials who may be called upon to enforce them.

With respect to the Bond Commission meeting this Thursday, July 21, 2022, I, therefore, recommend deferring preliminary agenda item No. 8 (S22-027 – New Orleans Aviation Board, North Terminal Project) and the enumerated list of lines of credit on behalf of the City of New Orleans under preliminary agenda items Nos. 20, 22, and 23 (see attached list).

I will continue to defend our laws that ensure the health and safety of women and the unborn. I am grateful the United States Supreme Court has finally returned legislative power on the issue of abortion in Louisiana to where it belongs: with the people of Louisiana. Many of you, including the Governor, have gone on the record, casting votes in support of the very laws that these elected officials are blatantly and publicly refusing to uphold. I ask that you and my fellow Bond Commission members join me in ensuring that the parishes and municipalities of this State comply with all laws of our State, especially those protecting the lives of the unborn.

For Louisiana,



Jeff Landry  
Attorney General

cc: Governor John Bel Edwards  
Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser  
Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin  
Senate President Page Cortez  
House Speaker Clay Schexnayder  
Senator Mack "Bodi" White

Senator R. L. Bret Allain, II  
Senator Mike Reese  
Representative Jerome Zeringue  
Representative Stuart J. Bishop  
Representative John Stefanski  
Commissioner Jay Dardenne

Enclosure