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March 31, 2009

The Honorable Bobby Jindal  
Governor  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal:

We commend you for seeking to provide a world-class teaching and research hospital in New Orleans and affordable quality health care for its citizens.

But, as you know, there is considerable disagreement over the most cost-effective and expeditious way to achieve this. There have been back and forth claims concerning Louisiana State University plans for new facilities in the historic Mid-City neighborhood and the alternative proposal by the Foundation for Historical Louisiana (FHL) and the architectural firm of RMJM Hillier to gut Charity Hospital and rebuild a new 21<sup>st</sup> century hospital inside its shell.

Forty-seven organizations have joined so far to request that you order an independent, third-party comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these two plans. This study should include an economic development analysis and a thorough look at the construction costs.

Organizations joining this call range from national entities, such as the American Planning Association, to neighborhood organizations, such as the Broadmoor Improvement Association. (Please see the enclosed press release from March 25, at which point there were 41 organizations making this request.)

These organizations have concluded that a rigorous, side-by-side financial analysis will both clear up contradictory claims about construction costs of the two plans and measure the impact of different timelines on job creation, economic development, and health care. The scope and methodology will be established by your professional staff. We appreciate that Louisiana Secretary of Health and Hospitals Alan Levine stated at the recent Senate District 9 Health Care Reform Forum that no final decisions had been made and that both the new construction and rehab approaches were still on the table.

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The 47 groups also asked the New Orleans City Council and Planning Commission to hold public hearings on the two plans and to include the hospital plans in the city Master Plan now being drafted. We are pleased to report that, as of this date, individual members of the City Council have called for such hearings.

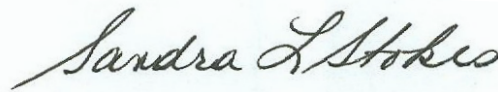
We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you in helping to undertake such an independent evaluation.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,



Richard Moe  
President  
National Trust for Historic Preservation



Sandra Stokes  
Executive Vice Chair  
Foundation for Historical Louisiana

RM:phb

cc: Sect of Health and Hospitals Alan Levine  
Members of the Louisiana Legislature  
Members of the Louisiana Bond Commission  
Whitman Kling - Director, State Bond Commission

Enclosure