



THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PRESSES

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May 11, 2009

Governor Bobby Jindal
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

Dear Governor Jindal:

I urge you to continue Louisiana's support of the Louisiana State University Press, and not to allow it to be shut down. Others are more qualified than I to tell you about the value of the press to the state and the effect of its loss for the citizens of Louisiana; I can assure you that the press is a national treasure, and its closing would be felt throughout the country.

I am writing to you in a dual capacity: as a member of the Advisory Board of the Louisiana State University Press, and as Executive Director of the Association of American University Presses. As a member of the Advisory Board for the last four years it has been my pleasure to share the excitement of MaryKatherine Callaway and her staff at the prizes and awards the press's books and authors have won.

As Executive Director of a publishing association with 135 members I can testify to how remarkable the press's record of national achievement has been: over 240 prizes in the last ten years, including four Pulitzer Prizes, the National Book Award, three Bancroft Prizes, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Booker Prize, the American Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the Lincoln Prize, and the Lamont Poetry Selection by the Academy of American Poets. The press has won four Pulitzer Prizes, more than any other press of any size at a public university.

That would be an enviable record for any publisher; for a relatively small press, it's simply astounding. And with every prize it wins, the press publicizes the commitment of Louisiana to cultural and artistic excellence; it brings glory to LSU, and honor to your state.

In the current economic climate we are all facing serious financial choices. Everyone understands that sacrifices have to be made, and no-one expects that the press should be exempt from them. But reducing support is one thing, and closing the press another. Fiscally it isn't necessary—the press is estimated to generate \$1.8 million in sales this year—and it would end a vital institution that has brought 75 years of national distinction to LSU. I urge you not to let that happen.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Givler
Executive Director

cc: Michael Martin, Chancellor, LSU
Astrid Merget, Provost, LSU