

On November 15, 2012, I attended and spoke briefly before the School Transportation Decentralization Study Committee. The following is the substance of my remarks before the committee:

“My name is Rick Maxey, and I am Chief Officer for Operations for Horry County Schools. When we first heard that the state was exploring the possibility of decentralizing student bus transportation, my staff conducted an internal study to determine an approximation of the financial impact such a change would have on our school district. Though two versions of the proposed bill have come forward, the essence of both is that some entity would be responsible for replacing older buses, whether the state’s ceiling for allowed use is either 15 or 20 years of age.

At the time of our internal study, since the first bill was the only one on the table, we focused our analysis on the requirement that buses older than 15 years of age would have to be replaced. Horry County Schools operates a fleet of 458 buses, and with that 15-year benchmark in force, our district would have to replace 421 buses. Based upon our recent bus purchases, that would amount to an expenditure well above \$30,000,000.00, given a cost of \$87,000.00 per bus. Of course, what we want to know is, “Who is going to provide this \$30 million dollars?”

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to hear several presentations on the bus decentralization topic, including attending two legislative committee meetings. We certainly want to do everything that we can to save money for the taxpayers of S.C. and Horry County and are open to improvement. However, at this time, I have not heard any proposal concerning the decentralizing of student bus transportation that convinces me that it will save the taxpayers’ money.

Thank you for allowing me this time to speak before the committee.”

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Horry County Schools’ vision is to be a premier, world-class school system in which every student acquires an excellent education. Our schools will be welcoming centers organized around high-quality teaching and learning.