



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 8, 2016

The Honorable James H. Lucas
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly,

Today, I am vetoing and returning without my approval certain items in R276, H.5002, a Joint Resolution to Appropriate Monies from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Although I have vetoed individual items in this Resolution, I believe that the people of this state should acknowledge the positive it does. This Resolution contains workforce-focused resources, replenishing state-owned assets at our technical colleges and universities. Further, we demonstrate a dedication to a diverse workforce with appropriations to the Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

Despite these positives, this Resolution, much like the accompanying FY 2016-17 General Appropriations Act, contains a number of earmarks, pork, and pet projects that should neither be tolerated as an acceptable budgeting practice nor should they become law.

- VETO 1** **Section 1 – Item 58, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, State Aquarium: \$270,000**
- VETO 2** **Section 1 – Item 59, Patriot’s Point Development Authority, USS Laffey: \$50,000**
- VETO 3** **Section 1 – Item 52, Clemson University PSA, T. Ed Garrison Arena Education/Conference Center: \$1,000,000**

Each of these items represents a local project of interest to community leaders and elected representatives, and each has merit so long as members of those communities choose to support them. Given that each responsible entity has a stable private funding stream, we should not support taxpayer funded earmarks.

VETO 4 Section 1 – Item 54, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Parks, Recreational, and Tourism Revitalizations: \$6,375,000

Although an outside observer may interpret this item as resources for the state parks system, it is in fact a bundling of local pork. This earmark is executed in the least transparent manner for allocating funds to private entities – one that should not be tolerated in government generally and one that I will not tolerate in my Cabinet specifically.

I ask that you sustain the veto of each of these unnecessary earmarks.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nikki R. Haley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "H".

Nikki R. Haley