

NRN

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Representative Bill Sandifer
Senator Daniel Verdin
Senator Hugh Leatherman
Representative W. Brian White
Representative Mike Pitts
Representative David Hiott
Senator Chip Campsen

2017 Legislative Agenda

➤ **Establish Term Limits:**

Term limits need to be established in both the South Carolina Senate and House of Representatives, and consist of three four year terms for each group. This modification would necessitate changing the House election cycle from two to four years, and would eliminate the requirement of House members constantly running for office. The change would also save considerable campaign funding and expense.

➤ **Limit Each Bill to One General Subject:**

Bills introduced for final votes by Legislators in both the SC Senate and House should address only one general subject or need and **not** contain unrelated riders and resolutions. Each piece of legislation should be able to be considered on its own merit and not be hidden in some other proposed statute. The practice of including codicils, riders, and other unrelated addendums to legislation needs to cease.

➤ **Ban Supermarket-Type Plastic Bags:**

Supermarket-type plastic bags should be banned from distribution at all retail establishments. These bags can be seen everywhere, blowing all over the roads, in lakes, streams and the ocean, and out in the countryside. The plastic recycling centers, at least in Oconee County, will not accept them, and the bags wind up in the general trash bins, and eventually into landfills where they last at least forever.

➤ **Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Increases:**

Tax increases need to be passed for both alcohol and tobacco products. The tobacco tax proceeds should be used to fund the escalating Medicaid costs, based on the assumption that people who smoke are more likely to need Medicaid assistance. The alcohol tax increase should be used offset rising prison system costs, applying the theory that people who drink too much and have their judgements adversely affected are more likely to avail themselves of the Department of Corrections' services. Approving these tax increases would allow for the allocation of more funding for other departments and projects.

➤ **Social Issues:**

South Carolina has the dubious distinction of being near the worst state in the nation for DUI, condition of roads and bridges, high school dropouts, neglected elderly, road rage, spousal abuse, per capita income, child abuse, citizen health, and teen pregnancy. These issues need to be addressed through a combination of increased funding and education (in schools and job retraining). Keeping students in well-funded schools, as well as in affordable colleges, is paramount to eliminating many of these lingering social issues.

➤ **State Conservation Bank Funding:**

The State Conservation Bank needs to maintain at least its current funding level. Last year's attempt in the House Reconciliation Committee to divert almost \$7 million from the Bank to DNR for Wildlife Management Area programs and maintenance was, at minimum, misguided. The stipulations in the original Conservation Bank Bill widely known as the "death clause" and the "sunset clause" set for the year of 2018 should also be removed. The Conservation Bank provides a public service by protecting acreage in South Carolina. Conservation easement projects have kept working farms and forests in production, maintained water quality by filtering water running through the area, reduced flooding, enriched wildlife habitat, provided outdoor recreation protected historic sites, and attracted sportsmen, outdoorsmen, and tourists. In addition to these benefits, the following facts should be considered:

1. The population of South Carolina is expected to increase by 1 million residents over the next 20 years. We will need every square inch we can find for open space and farmland to support this additional population growth.
2. If the drought conditions in California remain and the yield on that state's crop land continues to decrease, more food will need to be grown in South Carolina. It is vital, therefore, that we keep as many farms as possible in operation and thriving so that the farmland is not lost to development. The State Conservation Bank provided a method for helping to achieve this goal.

3. With the projected population increase in South Carolina will also come additional demands on our water supplies. Conservation easements help to maintain water quality, set aside wetlands, and provide woodlands to help filter contaminants from our water and help to refill the aquifers by decreasing rainfall runoff and increasing ground-water absorption.

The State Conservation Bank needs to remain intact.

➤ **Stop the Interstate 73 Project**

The Interstate 73 boondoggle is a wasteful project which will only serve to get vacationers to overcrowded Myrtle Beach even faster. I was hoping that this ill-conceived proposal would disappear along with former Representative Nelson Hardwick, but this apparently is not the case. Below is an excerpt from the Coastal Conservation League website which explains the problems with this project:

I-73, the \$2.4 billion interstate proposed to link the Myrtle Beach area with I-95 and beyond to North Carolina, has been and continues to be driven by special interests without regard to need, to cost, or its impact on the environment and community. The proposed interstate will impact or destroy over 350 acres of wetlands and 22 miles of streams. Local communities that now struggle to stay economically viable will be devastated. There is no need for a new interstate. Two years ago the Conservation League released an independent study analyzing an alternative to I-73... improving SC 38/ US 501. The Conservation League named the improved alternative the Grand Strand Expressway. The study found that improving the existing roads would deliver similar economic and transportation benefits at a fraction of the cost of building I-73. Today I-73 still lacks permits and funding, but the political will to get this interstate built is strong. The Conservation League continues to advance a less expensive and less ecologically harmful transportation alternative. We are monitoring the permitting process and ready to take further action if a permit is granted.

<http://coastalconservationleague.org/projects/i-73-in-south-carolina/>

➤ **Offshore Drilling**

Permitting offshore drilling would be a mistake for South Carolina. The consequences of an oil spill off of the SC coast more than offsets any benefits that would be derived from such an effort. There are literally thousands of small business owners along the coast that could be drastically affected by oil-contaminated beaches, along with several state parks and wildlife management areas, the fishing industry, and tourism revenue. Offshore drilling is simply not worth the risk. Below is just one of many articles opposing drilling off of SC's coast:

limits the general public's use of these assets. Some type of fee system, either an annual pass or a daily fee like SCPRT uses, would greatly improve this situation and give non-hunters more wilderness access. IN the state of Colorado, for example, there is a separate state land use fee in addition to any requires licenses. Road maintenance and additional enforcement personnel could be funded from these fees.

➤ **South Carolina/Georgia Savannah River Basin Caucus:**

The picture below was taken at the SC/GA Savannah River Basin Legislative Casus held on September 18, 2013 at the Hartwell Dam. The Caucus is a joint effort by the legislators from both states to promote better coordination and study of the Savannah River Basin so that we do not wind up in court over the use of this valuable asset. One of the primary sponsors of this group was former SC Representative Don Bowen, who is no longer a member of House of Representatives. This collection of elected officials and concerned citizens needs to continue meeting and discussing issues. The legislature should make every effort to keep this dialog going, and a SC Legislator needs to continue Mr. Bowen's dedication to this group.

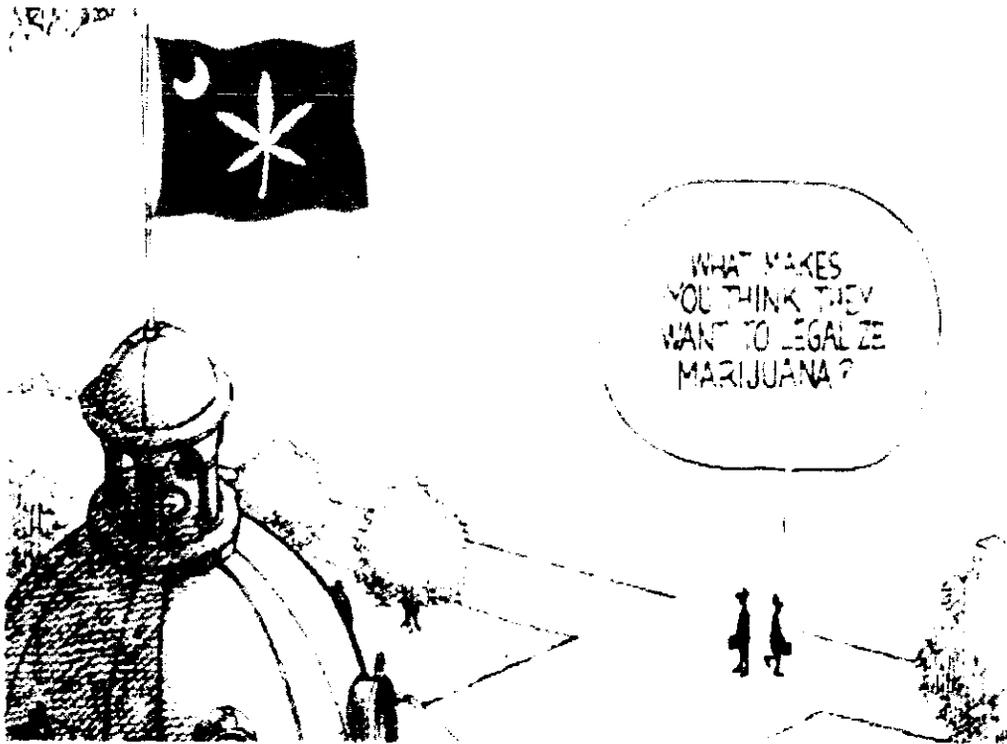


➤ **Legalized Marijuana:**

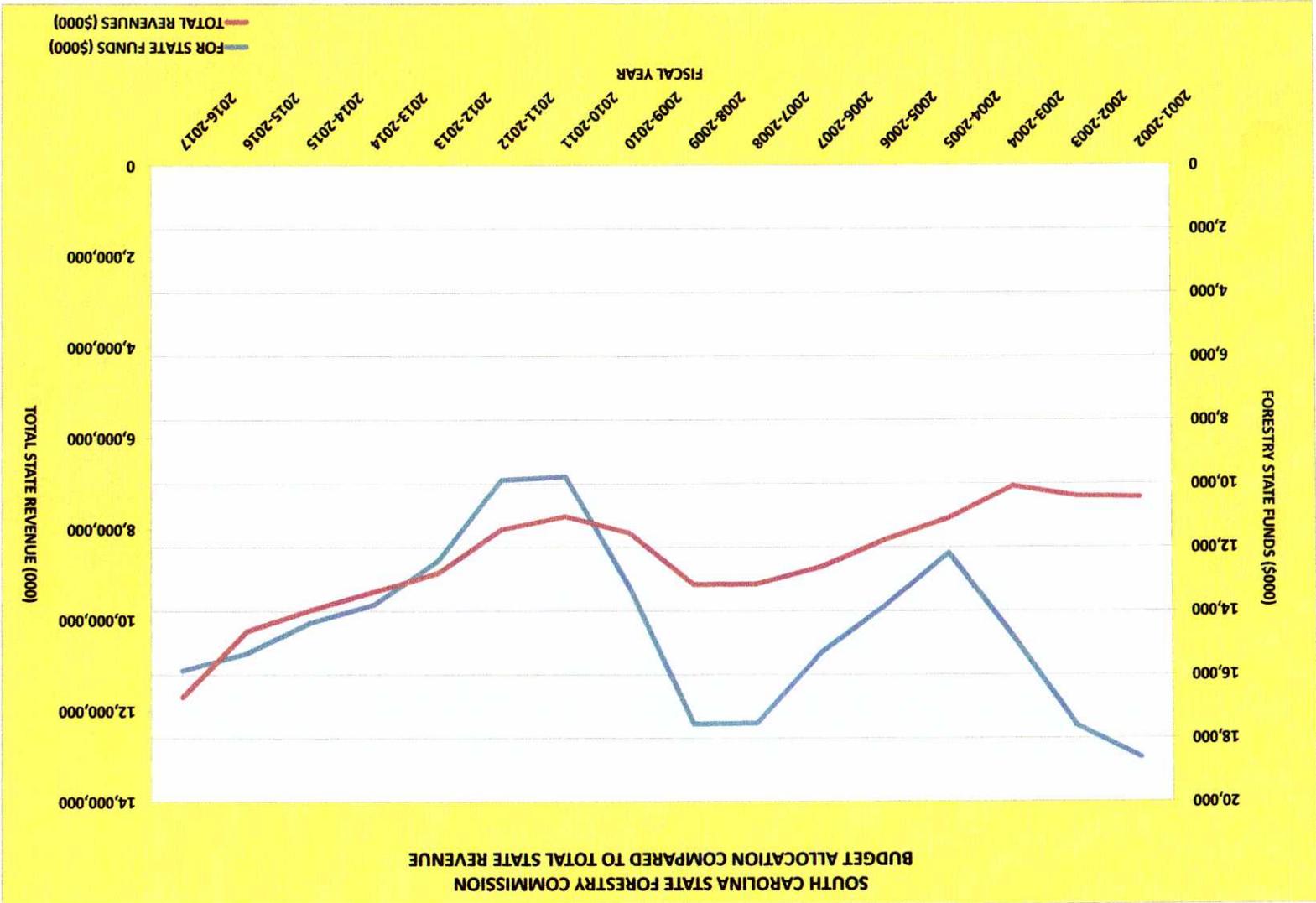
I am opposed to the legalization of marijuana in South Carolina even though the proposals are only for medical purposes. Once the marijuana purveyors get their collective feet in the door, anything could happen. My son and his family live in the Denver area where the marijuana shops in downtown Denver outnumber most other stores. There is contention between Colorado and neighboring states, whose

residents return home, while driving under the influence, with their Denver purchases. There are also many more Colorado DUI incidents. Marijuana shows up unexpectedly in candy, baked goods, drinks and everywhere else imaginable. The legalization of the drug in any form should be defeated.

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Thank you for your dedicated service to South Carolina.



| FISCAL YEAR | FOR STATE FUNDS (\$000) | % OF FOR TO REVENUE |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 2001-2002 | 18,510 | 0.25% |
| 2002-2003 | 17,622 | 0.24% |
| 2003-2004 | 14,808 | 0.21% |
| 2004-2005 | 12,192 | 0.16% |
| 2005-2006 | 13,841 | 0.17% |
| 2006-2007 | 15,308 | 0.17% |
| 2007-2008 | 17,528 | 0.19% |
| 2008-2009 | 17,558 | 0.19% |
| 2009-2010 | 13,251 | 0.16% |
| 2010-2011 | 9,776 | 0.13% |
| 2011-2012 | 9,878 | 0.12% |
| 2012-2013 | 12,432 | 0.14% |
| 2013-2014 | 13,806 | 0.15% |
| 2014-2015 | 14,376 | 0.15% |
| 2015-2016 | 15,344 | 0.15% |
| 2016-2017 | 16,864 | 0.14% |

| FORESTRY STATE FUNDS (\$000) | 2016-2017 FOR ALLLOCATION | 2016-2017 FOR ALLLOCATION @0.37% FROM 2001-2002 | 2016-2017 FOR ALLLOCATION SHORTAGE BASED ON 2001-2002 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| 16,864 | 16,864 | 29,708 | (13,844) |

| 2001-2002 | 2016-2017 | INC/ (DEC) % |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 18,510 | 16,864 | (2,746) -14.8% |
| 17,558 | 16,864 | (694) -3.9% |
| 17,528 | 16,864 | (664) -3.8% |
| 13,251 | 16,864 | 3,613 27.3% |
| 9,776 | 16,864 | 7,088 72.5% |
| 9,878 | 16,864 | 6,986 70.7% |
| 12,432 | 16,864 | 4,432 35.7% |
| 13,806 | 16,864 | 3,058 22.1% |
| 14,376 | 16,864 | 2,488 17.3% |
| 15,344 | 16,864 | 1,520 9.9% |
| 16,864 | 16,864 | 0 0.0% |