

Morris D Squires

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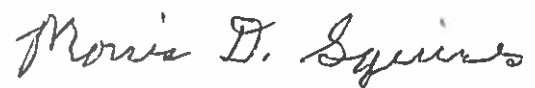
Dear Governor Haley,

Please find a copy of a letter I mailed to SC Senator Kent Williams enclosed, detailing a serious drainage problem that affects two productive South Carolina Farms and I feel the problem is caused by an Individual who is in violation of South Carolina law.

Please feel free to read the letter and forward it to any one you see fit. I would be grateful if you or any one of your staff would follow up with me because my problem is time sensitive.

Governor I thank you in advance.

Morris D. Squires

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morris D. Squires". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

I feel these canal ditches were installed on these farms in the early 1900's to make the land more suited for agriculture. Obviously the drainage system was well planned and has worked flawlessly for all these years until the intervention by Mr. David McCusker.

I know that Horry County as well as the state of South Carolina was built on and still depends on agriculture. I am sure those that came before us had that in mind when they wrote parts of The South Carolina Code of laws title 49. Could you imagine what would happen if people started blocking or filling in ditches just because the ditches are on their land and they want to do away them! My property as Marks' is taxed by Horry County for storm drainage yet we can't seem to get any help from any local, County, State or even Federal Authorities. I guess it easy to forget about a problem when it does not affect you. Mark Squires and I both suffer from Heart disease along with other health issues and we certainly don't need the added stress and anxiety this drainage problem has caused.

I have run out of options so I am asking You for help in this matter and maybe you can get people to return your calls or at very least have the proper authorities that are charged with the duties of enforcing the laws of this great State to contact me to resolve this matter. I cannot afford an attorney however due to the fact this appears to be a violation of SC State law I should not have to retain one. I merely wish to have the drainage system put back in working order.

Senator Williams I think it would be about 20 minute ride for you to Aynor and I would be glad to meet you there because seeing is believing. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Thank you for your consideration,

Morris Squires,

Phone: 843-392-4418

Email: riversidemtc@yahoo.com

SECTION 49-19-90. Obstruction of or injury to drainage works. (1920)

Whoever shall wilfully obstruct any canal, drain, ditch or watercourse or shall damage or destroy any drainage works constructed under the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars or be confined in the county jail for a period not exceeding six months and in addition thereto shall be liable to the district or the person or persons injured for double the cost of removing such obstruction or repairing such damage and for the full amount of injury occasioned to any lands, crops or other property by reason of such misconduct.

SECTION 49-19-30. "Owner" defined.

The word "owner" as used in this chapter shall mean the owner of the freehold estate, as appears by the deed record, and it shall not include reversioners, remaindermen, trustees or mortgagees, who shall not be counted and need not be notified by publication or served by process but shall be represented by the present owner of the freehold estate in any proceedings under this chapter.

SECTION 49-11-10. Prohibition on dams or banks erected or water let off to injury of others.

No person shall be permitted or allowed to make or keep up any dam or bank to stop the course of any waters so as to overflow the lands of another person without the consent of such person first had and obtained nor shall any person be permitted or allowed to let off any reserved water to injure the crops upon the grounds of other persons.

SECTION 49-17-10. Legislative declaration of public interest.(1911)

It is hereby declared that the drainage of swamps, the drainage of surface water from agricultural lands and the reclamation of tidal marshes shall be considered a public benefit and conducive to the public health, convenience, utility and welfare

SECTION 49-3-50. Matters to be considered by department in exercising responsibilities.

In exercising its responsibilities under this chapter, the department shall take into consideration the need for:

- (e) Flood damage control or prevention measures including zoning to protect people, property, and productive lands from flood losses
- (h) Watershed protection and management measures.

Technical Bulletin No. 194 (1930) United States Department of Agriculture

"A further need in order to bring about utilization of the lands is that they shall be sold to farmers rather than persons who are not qualified by experience, resources, and temperament to subdue and farm them"

SOME OF MY CONTACTS:

Sam Ward: Soil and Water Conservation: 843-365-7923

Kellie Watson: Federal crop insurance adjuster and investigator: 803-428-8824

Mark Squires: farmer 843-458-9649

Tom Garigen: Horry County Storm Water

Al Allen: Horry County Councilman Dist.11 843-915-5120 or 843-602-9243

Mark Lazarus: Chairman Horry County Council 843-915-5120

Matt Maxwell: DEHEC 843-238-4378

W. Scott Rutherford: Deputy Chief 843-915-8341 843-915-7979

Benjamin C. Allen: Summary Court Judge 843-915-5296

Army corps of Engineers: 843-365-4239

cc. Governor Nikki R. Haley