

96 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ext

Aynor, SC 29511

27 July 2016

Subject: Interstate 73

Dear Governor:

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my opposition to subject project. We residents of Horry County have recently been subject to the semi-annual televised diatribe by the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce (MBACC) in the person of Mr. Brad Dean, assisted by Horry County DOT Commissioner Mike Wooten. This project is a pork-barrel boondoggle, designed to benefit the moneyed tourist interests of Myrtle Beach to the detriment of the State as a whole. Ironically, the same newscast touting the benefits of I73 also informed us of the fact that the FY 2016 1.3 billion dollar expenditure by SCDOT would only bring our roads up to a "poor" standard. How is it then that this unnecessary single purpose project is contemplated, when it would add an additional burden to an already overtaxed SCDOT ?

Additional objections are as indicated below:

The job creation claims, based on a study funded by MBACC, of 29,000 new jobs are wildly over-stated, and are contradicted by other areas of the State e.g. the PeeDee which currently have interstate access yet are labeled (rightly or wrongly) the "Corridor of Shame".

Environmental Impact: It is estimated that 975 acres of wetlands will be filled. I am no "tree-hugger", but for a project of such limited benefit, this is unacceptable.

State Liability: Apparently, the latest scheme is to toll the roadway. Nevertheless, should toll revenues fall short ( a scenario not hard to imagine when the road would see maximum usage about four months per year), the State would be on the hook for the revenue shortfall as in the cases of SC State loans, and more appropriately toll road(s) in the Upstate with deficits.

Finally, and a word of caution here, the self-appointed community spokesman of Horry County, abetted by our legislative delegation, have not hesitated to circumvent regulatory controls when they cannot comply with the stated stipulations. The most recent example is the Coastal Carolina stadium expansion whereby a certain dollar amount of donor support was required.

When it could not be raised, the issue was side-stepped by resorting to legislative action, and the expansion is on-going. I can easily envision a similar scenario regarding I73.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and would strongly encourage you to act in the best interests of the State as a whole and postpone this project.



Richard J. Schlegel Jr

COL,USA, (ret.)