



Hugh E. Weathers
Commissioner

State of South Carolina
Department of Agriculture

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June 24, 2013

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor, State of South Carolina
State Capital Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor,

I am writing to ask for your support of the State Farmers Market initiative proposed in the Capital Reserve Funds section of the FY 2014 budget.

As you know the purpose of the request is to afford better management by the Department of Agriculture in order to enhance opportunities for all farmers, wholesalers, and consumers using our great new market. While still a public-private initiative, the acquisition by the State of key income producing assets produces a positive cash flow.

The funding level passed by the General Assembly for the market of \$7.06 million is approximately half of the request presented. However, the Department can manage the market to financial self-sufficiency with this level of funding. It should be noted that the budget request for \$300 thousand in operating funds serves as a stopgap measure until the expected revenue streams from the purchased properties come on-line fully.

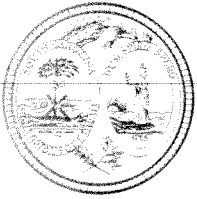
The acquired cash flows will be analyzed as they become consistent over time, and invested to make subsequent improvements at the market, hopefully without additional appropriated dollars.

Thank you for your consideration and your support for South Carolina agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. Weathers", written over a horizontal line.

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Dear Governor,

I am writing to ask for your support of the initiatives presented to you in the FY 2014 budget that pertain to the Department of Agriculture's missions.

All dollars appropriated to the Department focus on one of three primary missions – improving consumer safety, enhancing agricultural commerce, or providing pertinent public information.

Our requests in the FY 2014 budget focus on consumer safety and commerce.

The regulatory environment promulgated in Washington, DC concerning food production and processing is only going to become more challenging to our farmers. Through the programs presented in our requests, the Department will raise its level of guidance and service to farmers to meet those challenges.

Agricultural commerce remains one of the keys to a better future for many South Carolina counties. With the initiatives we have planned and reflected in budget requests, the Department pledges to work harder still to create more opportunities for success for the men and women of South Carolina's agribusiness industry.

Thank you for your support for South Carolina agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh".

Hugh E. Weathers