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RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

FROM:

Restore America's Estuaries
2300 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 603
Arlington, VA 22201
(703)524-0248

FAX NUMBER:

(703) 524-0287

DATE:

07/20/2015

RE:

SC Gov Office – Proclamation
Request

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES EXCLUDING COVER:

2 pages

Please confirm receipt by emailing Stefanie Simpson at ssimpson@estuaries.org



RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

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President and CEO
Restore America's
Estuaries

Dear Honorable Governor Nikki Haley,

September 19 - 26, 2015 marks National Estuaries Week. This week represents the nation's largest annual event to promote the importance of estuaries and the need to protect them while providing an excellent opportunity for the state of South Carolina to demonstrate its support for these special places like North Inlet-Winyah Bay, the ACE Basin, and Port Royal Sound, among others.

Restore America's Estuaries is a non-profit national alliance comprised of 11 coastal conservation groups dedicated to restoring and preserving America's estuaries and coasts. We would be honored if you would sponsor an official proclamation to recognize September 19 - 26, 2015 as Estuaries Week. Your proclamation would lend official recognition to the important work of educating the public on restoration needs and efforts.

National Estuaries Week is a terrific opportunity to learn more about estuaries and the perfect excuse to spend time exploring the South Carolina coast with family and friends. Restore America's Estuaries and its member groups will be offering volunteer opportunities all over the nation, including hands-on restoration events, guided kayaking tours, educational opportunities and more.

By making National Estuaries Week an official celebration in South Carolina you will be joining several other governors who are working towards the same effort -- in fact, we have set out to have National Estuaries Week officially recognized or declared in all coastal states. As a former South Carolina resident myself, it was the love of the SC coast that led me to my current career, and I am thankful for your support in recent years to celebrate the coast with past proclamations. I hope you will continue this tradition with a 2015 National Estuaries Week proclamation.

Enclosed you will find proposed cited proclamation language. Let us know if you need more information. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from your office. Completed proclamations should be mailed to our Arlington, VA office at:

ATTN. Stefanie Simpson
Restore America's Estuaries
2300 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 603
Arlington, Virginia 22201

We'd appreciate receiving the proclamation by September 10, 2015, though we would be glad to have it earlier.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Simpson

Restore America's Estuaries

NATIONAL OFFICE
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 603
Arlington, VA 22201
Tel: (703) 524-0248 | Fax: (703) 524-0287
ESTUARIES.ORG



Proposed Text

**State of South Carolina
Governor's Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the North Inlet-Winyah Bay and the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserves and Port Royal Sound are integral to the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, estuaries are vibrant coastal environments that support more life per square inch than any other ecosystem on earth, providing home to countless species of fish, shellfish, birds, and marine mammals, and whereas South Carolina's estuarine regions host approximately 44% of the population and 37% of the State GDP [i]; and

WHEREAS, 73% of all fish harvested in South Carolina are estuarine-dependent species [ii], and preserving our local fish habitats and populations will also preserve our \$276 million commercial and recreational fishing industries [iii]; and

WHEREAS, millions of tourists are attracted to the beautiful South Carolina coasts every year, bringing with them \$1.5 billion in added GDP [iv]; and

WHEREAS, restoration projects create more than twice as many jobs as the oil and gas and road construction industries combined [v]; and

WHEREAS, protecting and restoring our estuaries is vital to our local and national economy because they sustain the fisheries that feed America, ensure outdoor recreational opportunities for current and future generations, reduce the costly impacts of natural hazards, and support local jobs which cannot be exported.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 19 - 26, 2015 as

NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join together in the appropriate celebrations.

[i] Restore America's Estuaries, *The Economic and Market Value of Coasts and Estuaries: What's At Stake?* Edited by Linwood Pendleton. Web. 2006

http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/economic_and_market_valueofcoasts_and_estuaries.pdf p.45

[ii] Ibid, p.76

[iii] U.S. Department of Commerce. Fisheries Economics of the United States. 2009: Economic and Sociocultural Status and Trends Series. Web. 2009

<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5/publication/econ/2009/FEUS%202009%20ALL.pdf> p.110-111

[iv] Kildow, Judith T., Charles S. Colgan, and Jason Scorse. Coastal and Ocean Economic Summaries of the Coastal States. Rep. National Ocean Economics Program, 2009. Web. 17 July 2012.

<http://www.oceaneconomics.org/NationalReport/> p. 53.

[v] Restore America's Estuaries, Jobs and Dollars: Big Returns from Coastal Habitat Restoration. Web.

http://www.estuaries.org/images/81103-RAE_17_FINAL_web.pdf