

HARVEY S. PEELER, JR.  
CHAIRMAN

## Medical Affairs Committee



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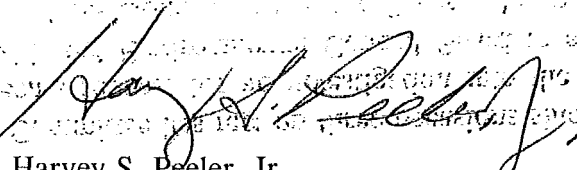
The Honorable Glenn F. McConnell  
*President Pro Tempore*  
South Carolina Senate  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Senator McConnell:

The Senate Medical Affairs Committee has met on three occasions since the receipt of your letter referring Senator Sheheen's request for an investigation into the November 10<sup>th</sup> decision by the Department of Health and Environmental Control Board to approve a water quality certification for dredging operations along the Savannah River. We met on November 29<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. We heard testimony from six members of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Board, from six Department of Health and Environmental Control staff members and from four members of Governor Haley's staff. We requested that the chairman of the Savannah River Maritime Commission testify and upon advice of his attorney he declined.

Pursuant to your letter and Senator Sheheen's letter, by majority vote the Senate Medical Affairs Committee finds that there was no undue interference or no undue influence related to the Department of Health and Environmental Control Board's decision granting the 401 Water Quality Certification for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.

Sincerely,

  
Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.  
Chairman

cc: Medical Affairs Committee Members  
The Honorable Vincent Sheheen