



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 3, 2014

The Honorable Glenn F. McConnell
President of the Senate
Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

I am vetoing and returning without my approval R205, S.293, a bill that raises the cap on property taxes for the Murrell's Inlet-Garden City Fire District from 10 mills to 14 mills. I have vetoed this bill because I believe that taxpayers deserve a chance to vote on tax increases.

I have been clear that these types of local bills – that effectively and inevitably raise taxes on citizens – should first go to the citizens to be voted into law.

Not only does this bill deny the people a referendum on a tax increase, **this bill also gives an appointed, unelected board the authority to set the new millage rate under the increased cap.** As a matter of good government, we should not allow a board that is insulated from and unaccountable to the people raise taxes on those it supposedly serves.

Let me remind you that every member of the General Assembly is expected to vote on every bill, even local bills. For these reasons, I respectfully ask that every member of the Senate vote to sustain my veto. Together, we can save the taxpayers of Murrell's Inlet and Garden City from a tax increase they did not choose and cannot control.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nikki R. Haley", is written over a large, faint, circular watermark or seal that is partially visible in the background.

Nikki R. Haley