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**From:** Haley, Nikki  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2014 12:05 PM  
**To:** Baker, Josh  
**Subject:** Re: Murrell's Inlet Veto Message

Take out the "some have argued.....". Just state any and all local tax increases that do not fall into the county's regular form of business should always require voter approval before allowing it to happen. State legislators do not need to get into the practice of backdoor tax increases.

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 4, 2014, at 10:55 AM, "Baker, Josh" <[JoshBaker@gov.sc.gov](mailto:JoshBaker@gov.sc.gov)> wrote:

Governor,

Here is the current draft of the veto message; please advise as to any changes, corrections, or with your approval.

Thank you,

Josh

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

I am vetoing and returning without my approval R205, S.293, a bill that raises the property tax cap 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 fire district tax increases.**

Some have argued that there is no precedent for holding a millage referendum for a multi-county fire district. Even if this is true, this is hardly a reason to deny voters their right to be consulted. After all, adjacent counties routinely manage to hold elections to select members of multi-county districts, including members of several joint fire districts.

Last week, S.964 was enrolled, which may also have the effect of increasing millage rates for certain fire districts. The prime sponsors of both bills have argued that the millage increases made possible through their respective legislation would allow fire districts to obtain a quality certification from the International Standards Organization, resulting in lower premiums for homeowners' insurance policies in the affected communities. **The difference is that S.964 requires that a referendum be held first.**

For these reasons, I ask that each legislator cast a vote to sustain my veto of R205, S.293.

Joshua D. Baker  
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