

## **VETO 63**

### **For: Funding the Palmetto Conservation Foundation – Palmetto Trail**

**Taxpayer Cost: \$300,000**

**Veto 63** – PRT, Palmetto Conservation Foundation: Palmetto Trail \$300,000 Non-recurring funds

#### **Background Information:**

- Attached is a letter from Duane Parrish confirming these funds were not part of PRT request.
- This proviso would fund the Palmetto Conservation Foundation – Palmetto Trail, which is currently two-thirds complete with more than 350 miles open to the public.
- The Palmetto Trail is a federally designated Millennium Legacy Trail and it is the signature project of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation.
- In 2013, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation received more than \$1 million dollars (\$1,214,054) from contributions and grants, so clearly this foundation does not need taxpayer help in raising money. The total income for the Palmetto Conservation Foundation in 2013 was \$1,262,740.
- State tax dollars should help with core functions of government – we should not overspend by funding individual green space initiatives/parks.
- Private/City/County funds should be sought in order to fund green space initiatives/parks.
- Gaining money through other sources such as fundraising by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation or through donations to the Palmetto Trail would be a better way to gain monetary contributions since the trail already has more than 350 miles open to the public. This \$300,000 is certainly not needed immediately from SC taxpayers.



South Carolina Department of  
Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Nikki Haley  
Governor

Duane N. Parrish  
Director

July 2, 2015

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

On behalf of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, I would like to express my support for Governor Haley's Vetoes 50, 54 – 66 and 68 of the *FY 15/16 General Appropriations Act*. Certainly, each of these projects has merit and value at the local level; however, because the immediate benefit of these individual projects is primarily limited to their respective local communities, I believe their funding should solely be the responsibility of their respective local governments. Moreover, even when viewed collectively, I believe the value of these projects does not transcend singular and strictly local benefits that do not adhere to SCPRT's mission or strategy for statewide tourism promotion. In addition, many of these projects are eligible for funding through the State Accommodations Tax collections that are allocated annually to local governments for distribution – a funding option that allows the local governments to utilize funds specifically designated for tourism-related projects and activities. This option provides each local government better oversight through funding approval authority and the ability to determine funding priority for its respective projects based on current needs.

Again, I would like to stress that my position regarding the funding of these projects should, in no way, be construed as a criticism of the projects themselves. Rather, it is an affirmation that, because these projects fall outside the immediate scope of SCPRT's statewide mission and strategy, their funding responsibilities should be limited to the local communities and governments whose interests they most immediately serve. I believe the true success of a state's tourism industry necessitates statewide collaboration based upon participation from local tourism business communities and support from their respective local governments. Allowing local governments to individually fulfill their responsibilities to their respective tourism business communities ensures sustainable tourism economic development for the state as a whole and, ultimately, facilitates SCPRT's ability to effectively market South Carolina as a travel destination.

I urge you to sustain Governor Haley's vetoes of these provisos and allow these projects to be funded by the local communities and governments that they most directly benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Duane Parrish".

Duane Parrish

change	Doing Business As		57-0907043
change			
return	Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) 722 KING ST	Room/suite	E Telephone number
ited			(803) 771-0870
id return	City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code COLUMBIA, SC 29205		
ion pending			G Gross receipts \$ 1,265,110
F Name and address of principal officer NATALIE CAPPUCCIO BRITT 722 KING STREET COLUMBIA, SC 29205			H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  H(b) Are all subordinates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," attach a list (see instructions)  H(c) Group exemption number ▶
exempt status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c) ( ) ◀ (insert no ) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527			
site: ▶ WWW.PALMETTOCONSERVATION.ORG			
organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other ▶			L Year of formation      M State of legal domicile

### Summary

Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities  
**TO PROTECT SC NATURAL RESOURCES & PROMOTE RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE MANNER**

Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets

Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a) . . . . .	3	10
Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b) . . . . .	4	10
Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2013 (Part V, line 2a) . . . . .	5	22
Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary) . . . . .	6	
a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12 . . . . .	7a	0
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34 . . . . .	7b	

	Prior Year	Current Year
Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h) . . . . .	721,563	1,214,054
Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g) . . . . .		0
Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d) . . . . .	3,669	2,722
Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e) . . . . .	46,132	45,964
Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12) . . . . .	771,364	1,262,740
Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3) . . . . .	15,398	0
Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4) . . . . .		0
Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10) . . . . .	270,368	312,535
a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e) . . . . .		15,000
b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶19,365		
Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e) . . . . .	437,273	581,599
Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25) . . . . .	723,039	909,134
Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12 . . . . .	48,325	353,606
	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
Total assets (Part X, line 16) . . . . .	9,217,106	9,521,174
Total liabilities (Part X, line 26) . . . . .	113,085	62,781
Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20 . . . . .	9,104,021	9,458,393

### I Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

***** Signature of officer	2007-02-05 Date
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