

VETO 25

South Carolina

Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Nikki R. Haley
Governor

Duane N. Parrish
Director

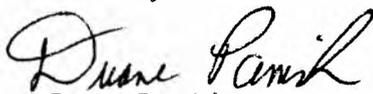
June 18, 2014

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 Veto 25 regarding Proviso 97.14, *Municipality Accommodations Tax Withholdings*. I believe that, in allowing municipalities to circumvent the regulations and processes established by the Accommodations Tax law and recently upheld by the Supreme Court decision in the *City of Myrtle Beach v. Tourism Expenditure Review Committee*, Proviso 97.14 compromises the integrity of the Accommodations Tax law and defies the original intent and spirit of this law. Moreover, this Proviso essentially deprives the Tourism Expenditure Review Committee of its power as an oversight organization and effectively removes accountability from the processes and procedures established for local government expenditures of Accommodations Tax.

As a hotelier and active member of South Carolina's tourism industry for over 35 years, I can personally attest to the importance of the Accommodations Tax funds to local governments and their constituent tourism businesses for local tourism promotion. Accommodations Tax collections are a primary funding source, in many cases the only funding source, for tourism promotion throughout South Carolina's destinations. They are essential to the economic development of our state through tourism and should not be diverted to fund basic services provided by local governments. I urge you to sustain Governor Haley's veto of Proviso 97.14 and ensure the continued integrity of the Accommodations Tax law for the benefit our state's \$18 billion tourism industry.

Sincerely,


Duane Parrish

