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To: Patel, SwatiSwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov

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Date: 6/5/2014 4:41:49 PM

Subject: Request regarding various appropriations in the FY 2014-15 appropriations bill

Attachments: [santa elena.pdf](#)

[santa elena letter to Davis.doc](#)

[waddell.docx](#)

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Swati and Katherine:

As you review the FY 2014-15 appropriations act, I would ask that Gov. Haley give favorable consideration to (that is say, that she not veto) the line items listed below, for the reasons provided beneath the list. In identifying the line items, I will refer to the numbered lines on the Summary Control Document.

- ☐ On line 449, the \$121,176 recurring appropriation and the \$200,000 nonrecurring appropriation for parity funding to the University of South Carolina -- Beaufort
- ☐ On line 570, the \$1.5M nonrecurring appropriation for "Transition Military Report and Training Program" to the Technical College of the Lowcountry
- ☐ On line 603, the \$220,000 nonrecurring appropriation for "Marine Artifacts" to the Department of Archives and History (redirected to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA), a sub-agency of USC, via Proviso 34.1)
- ☐ On line 923, the \$1.1M nonrecurring appropriation for "Waddell Center Infrastructure" to the Department of Natural Resources
- ☐ On line 1442, the \$1.2M nonrecurring appropriation for "Jasper Port Development" to the State Ports Authority
- ☐ On line 1757, the \$750K nonrecurring appropriation (conditioned upon collection of General Fund surplus revenues) for "Lab & Classroom Renovation & Parking/Road" to the Technical College of the Lowcountry

In regard to the USC-B appropriations on line 449, I would point out that, even after consideration of the appropriation, the institution will still receiving far less than the statewide per-student funding average. USC-B, after factoring in the new recurring appropriation, will get \$1,903 per student, and the statewide per-student average is \$2,770. Dr. Pastidies (and the governor) want universities to move to a "merit funding" system, but that can't be done until parity has been reached (so all institutions start from the same point). This appropriation inches USC-B toward parity.

In regard to the appropriation to the Technical College of the Lowcountry on line 570, the money would be used to develop a program that increases military, dependent, and civil service (CS)/non-appropriated fund (NAF) employee participation in TCL programs and that maintains and expands ongoing transitioning training and placement efforts. This enhancement would build upon the success that the college has realized in the program's first two years. Transitioning military service members are taking full advantage of these courses to gain highly valued licenses and certifications. Regional employers in the aerospace and logistics community have grown increasingly aware of the high quality of employees that TCL is producing and have begun to actively seek them to fill their ranks. This program directly supports the state's recent efforts to ensure that our veterans have the opportunity to access high quality, well-paying jobs as they complete their military service. This investment will expand the existing program in response to the needs of regional employers and equip 480 transitioning service members with credentials that are in high demand in today's workforce. Specifically, the \$1.5 M allocation will be used to:

- (1) Recruit participants – military community and employers
- (2) Expand opportunities to earn civilian certifications and licenses
- (3) Expand opportunities to earn a certificate, diploma, or associate degree
- (4) Offer web-based support services and instruction to enhance distance learning opportunities
- (5) Expand the college's physical presence aboard MCAS Beaufort and MCRD Parris Island

I have previously sent you information in regard to the appropriation to the SCIAA on line 603. Attached are two documents that discuss the need for the \$220K. In short, the State of South Carolina is contractually obligated to the federal government to care for certain artifacts in the state's possession that were excavated from the Santa Elena site on the southern tip of Parris Island. Those responsibilities include: 1) handling the artifacts "in a scientifically responsible manner, in accordance with established guidelines as set forth by state and federal offices"; 2) not damaging or reducing the "scientific, educational, religious or cultural value of the collections"; and 3) curating "the material in a careful and prudent manner" and protecting, displaying and conserving them "in accordance with federal standards for the curation and preservation of archaeological materials." The excavated artifacts have been sitting in a storage unit in Columbia for the past three decades, without the curating, protecting and displaying duties having been fully discharged. The \$220K nonrecurring appropriation is necessary in order for the SCIAA to discharge the state's duties in regard to these artifacts. It is important that this be done not only because the state is legally obliged to do so, but because a private 501(c)(3) in Beaufort that would like to resume the archaeological dig on Santa Elena is unable to obtain permission to do so without the state being in compliance with its obligations as to the existing artifacts.

In regard to the appropriation to DNR on line 923, the \$1.1M nonrecurring appropriation would be used for critical upgrades to the facilities at the Waddell Mariculture Center in Bluffton. As you will recall, when the governor vetoed recurring operational funding for Waddell last year, she said the nonrecurring capital appropriation for these upgrades **was** warranted (and lamented the fact that it wasn't in the budget last year). Attached is a summary of the repairs and renovations that are necessary -- many of which are needed simply to bring the improvements up to code.

In regard to the appropriation to the State Ports Authority on line 1442, the money is critically necessary to continue progress on the permitting of the new marine terminal facility planned on the Jasper County side of the Savannah River. I won't belabor this point since I know the governor is already aware of the project's status and its importance to the state.

In regard to the appropriation to the Technical College of the Lowcountry on line 1757, the money would be used to renovate Buildings 15 and 16 on its Beaufort campus that house industrial programming instruction. Both buildings were completed in mid-1970s and have had no substantial renovation since. They are sheathed in Corten metal shells, which are badly rusted and deteriorated. The roofs, electrical and mechanical systems in these facilities are also in need of substantial repair and improvement. The expense involved in bringing these two buildings up to current standards and addressing the significant maintenance needs is prohibitive. The project funded by this appropriation would demolish both existing buildings and replace them with one consolidated, modern 30,000 square foot facility. Consolidating into a single facility will improve efficiency and functionality and also allow for parking and traffic improvements in that section of campus, in accordance with the TCL Facilities Master Plan. The anticipated project cost is \$6 million. ***The \$750,000 provided in the budget would provide for design development and the associated parking and road improvements. The TCL is currently engaged in attempts to fund the remainder of the project locally.***

Thank you for your consideration. Please call me at 843-592-1053 if you have any further questions about these particular appropriations.

Tom