

August 28, 2012

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Rob Godfrey, Communications Director
Office of the Governor
South Carolina State House, First Floor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Records Request – Governor’s Approval of H.4654 / R.255, Act 198 of 2012

Dear Mr. Godfrey:

Pursuant to South Carolina public records law, S.C. Code § 30-4-10 *et seq.*, the Southern Environmental Law Center (“SELC”) requests that you furnish copies of all public records in possession or control of the Office of the Governor relating to the Governor’s approval of bill H.4654 / R.255, Act 198 of 2012, which amended the South Carolina Pollution Control Act. This request includes, but is not limited to, all notes and emails. This request also includes, but is not limited to, all public records that indicate the time of day at which the Governor signed and/or approved the legislation (H.4654 / R.255, Act 198 of 2012) amending the South Carolina Pollution Control Act.

Under South Carolina law, “public record” for the purposes of this request includes all books, papers, maps, photographs, cards, tapes, recordings, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by a public body. S.C. Code § 30-4-20(c). Please provide any electronic records, including emails, in their native file format.

Please provide notification of your determination as to the availability of the requested records within 15 days of receipt of this request, as required by S.C. Code § 30-4-30(c). If written notification of the determination of a public body as to the availability of the requested public records is neither mailed nor personally delivered to the person requesting the document within 15 days, the request must be considered approved. *Id.*

We request that you waive any search and duplication fees and provide the requested records without charge, or at a reduced charge, pursuant to S.C. Code § 30-4-30(b). The disclosure of the requested materials would be in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the South Carolina Pollution Control Act and is not in the commercial interest of SELC.

SELC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to protect the natural resources of the Southeast, and, specifically, to gather, analyze, and disseminate public information about

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water quality issues in South Carolina. Should our request for reduced or waived fees be denied, we are prepared to bear the reasonable costs necessary to fulfill this request. Please contact me prior to any copying if costs are expected to exceed \$100.

I look forward to working with you to facilitate the production of the requested documents. Please contact me at 919-967-1450 or ntorrey@selcnc.org regarding this request for records.

Sincerely,

Nicholas S. Torrey
Associate Attorney