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To: Rep Mike Forrester <mike.forrester@charter.net>
Date: 8/27/2014 3:00:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: S.293

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pitts, Ted" <TedPitts@gov.sc.gov>
Date: August 27, 2014 at 2:29:02 PM EDT
To: "Mottel, Haley" <HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov>, "Veldran, Katherine" <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
Subject: FW: S.293

The Murrell's Inlet-Garden City fire district was established by a 1962 act and is located in Horry and Georgetown Counties. Millage was originally established in the enabling statute at 5 mills and increased in 1992 to 10 mills.

The argument for Sen. Cleary's bill is that, in order to raise additional revenues, then the General Assembly must amend the current law allowing for additional millage. This is not true. This special purpose district has the authority to set a referendum and allow for the voters to decide.

Existing law (§6-11-271) allows for certain special purpose districts to hold a referendum to increase millage on a date set by the board. The Murrell's Inlet-Garden City Fire district is a qualifying district under this statute.

Local officials have reported: The Murrell's Inlet-Garden City Fire district currently has a surplus in property taxes collected each year under the existing 10 millage amount. That is how over the last several years they have accrued \$1.5 million dollars in a reserve account. This in essence is enough money to build the fire station and purchase the equipment they seek. The Board Chair has basically confirmed this and says the new taxes are for the new firefighters that will be hired in a year.

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