



South Carolina Department of
Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Nikki Haley
Governor

Duane N. Parrish
Director

June 13, 2016

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 8 and 9 of the *FY 16/17 General Appropriations Act*. In regard to Veto 8, as referenced in Governor Haley's veto message, the directive assigned in this Proviso to SCPRT for the mowing of the Welcome Center grounds will effectively become an obstacle to our efforts to improve the aesthetics of the facilities for visitors driving into our state. While I agree that landscaping maintenance has a substantial impact on the overall presentation of these Welcome Centers, I would like to stress that all landscaping plans must be developed and implemented within the appropriate safety guidelines and without placing undue financial burden on SCPRT. Aligning the Clear Zone mowing with the regular grounds mowing schedule would place an extraordinary burden on agency resources that, ultimately, may detract from the overall revitalization strategy. In addition, SCPRT is not equipped with the resources necessary to meet the Federal DOT requirements for Clear Zone cutting.

In regard to Veto 9, I believe that establishing golf cart access across Highway 17 to Myrtle Beach State Park would create a significant public safety hazard since the existing pedestrian/bicycle crossing is inadequately narrow for golf cart traffic, which poses potential dangers to pedestrians and cyclists, as well as the golf cart operators and passengers. In addition, this would also further compound traffic difficulties for the park, especially during the high visitation periods during the summer season. Ultimately, this would place an undue resource burden on the agency by requiring more staff time and attention.

I urge you to sustain Governor Haley's vetoes of these provisos and allow SCPRT to determine the most efficient and effective utilization of its financial and human resources in these matters.

Sincerely,

Duane Parrish