

From: Peters, Hal <HalPeters@gov.sc.gov>
To: Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 4/15/2014 9:36:17 AM
Subject: FW: Brief Moratorium Letter

This is with regards to a moratorium request for the Edisto River Potato Farm dilemma.
AHP

From: Baker, Josh
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Peters, Hal
Subject: RE: Brief Moratorium Letter

Dear person,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding surface water withdraw permits and your recommendation to study and amend the South Carolina Surface Water Withdrawal Act. I appreciate your engagement on this issue; like you, I understand that South Carolina's rivers and streams are the arteries that feed our environment and communities, support our state's rural aesthetic, and drive economic activity.

In response to recent large-scale agricultural water use, several citizens have requested that I issue some directive or order that would cease all new withdrawal activity in this state. Though my office works closely with the agencies that regulate the use of our waterways, South Carolina law significantly limits the authority of the Governor on this matter. Ultimately, changes to our surface water policies must be managed either through agencies not under my direct authority or through a change in permanent law by South Carolina's legislature. Further, my office has been assured that the most controversial activities reported on in the past year were made appropriately, using agricultural exemptions intentionally placed into law XXX years ago.

Although the options available to my office for direct action are somewhat limited, I agree that this issue has become ripe for discussion and study once again. Several members of the General Assembly have introduced legislation aimed at addressing public concerns about South Carolina's surface water withdrawal policies, and I will work with them as these proposals move through the legislative process. Rest assured, this administration remains dedicated to helping communities and regulators strike the balance between conservation and long-term economic development. God bless.

My very best,

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/jdb

From: Peters, Hal
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 10:09 AM
To: Baker, Josh
Subject: Brief Moratorium Letter

Dear Person,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Governor's Office. Governor Haley values receiving feedback from citizens like you.

To clarify, could you please indicate the South Carolina Code you are referring to that grants the Governor the statutory legal authority to issue an executive order that places a moratorium that suspends agricultural surface water withdrawals. If you could do so, I would be happy to forward it along to our legal department for review and consideration.

Also, if you could provide a contact phone number and email address, I would be happy to discuss this with you.

If I can be of further assistance on this or other issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

AHP

Hal Peters
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