

Title: **S.C. bill with higher fee means killing off does**
 Author: BY ROBERT MERTING
 Size: 44.02 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



HUNTING

S.C. bill with higher fee means killing off does

BY ROBERT MERTING

There exists a dubious campaign in this state to mandate "Trophy Deer Management" goals under the guise of a tag requirement to hunt bucks. State Sen. Chip Campsen proffers bill S. 454 to 'address' a dwindling deer herd, yet the bill encourages the killing of does.

Campsen admits "confusion and misinformation" surrounds his bill. Of course, he caused it.

The Senator claims S. 454 is "a good deal" taking pains to show four doe tags, \$20, is more expensive than his proposed eight tag package, \$15; suggesting this will save hunters money. But next he admits "fees will neither increase or decrease."

Which is it? Are we saving money or not? We are not!

A hunter who wishes to spend the least possible to hunt deer must purchase only a state hunting license, \$12, and "Big Game Permit," \$6, for a total of \$18.

Under Campsen's "revenue neutral" plan, the hunter must also purchase a \$15 tag package, increasing his total to \$33 – an 83 percent increase.

An 83 percent tax increase is a good deal?

Hunters already purchase the Big Game Permit to hunt deer. If this bill becomes law, you will need to buy another permit just to hunt.

Why this bill? *To save the deer herd*, of course.

Since 2002 it has declined because of "lib-

eral deer harvest, habitat degradation and increased wild hog competition."

I agree that the sustainability of our deer herd is important, but the proposed solution does not competently address any of the causes.

I remember the 'good ol' days' of deer hunting before 2002 and Charles Ruth.

That was before over-the-counter doe tags, the Quota Tag Program, and doe days were every weekend.

But what we did have, for decades, was an unlimited buck harvest and an increasing deer population.

I watched in the 2000s as hunters used tags and other programs to kill more does. Does were killed to force bucks to move more during rut. This worked in the short term, but soon these hunters depleted the property and moved on. Meanwhile, on my property, I spared does and enjoyed continued hunting success.

It's simple math.

If you have 20 does and 10 bucks, you can have 20 pregnant does. However, if you save 4 bucks at the cost of 4 does, you can only have 16 pregnant does. Decades of these policies reduced our deer herd.

Now, in the Statehouse, one might think the way to increase the size of your herd is to limit the harvest of bucks while continuing to encourage killing does. But ask any cattle farmer what will happen to his herd if he starts saving bulls and killing cows. The

only thing increasing here is bull manure.

If Campsen wanted to increase the deer herd, he could use those tools already available to limit the killing of does. Rather, he ignores the principles of human action and proposes a change that will only increase the downward trend of the deer population.

Under Campsen's bill, all hunters will have doe tags in hand and be tempted to kill more does. And any buck 'saved' from hunters who harvest 'too many' will come at the cost of filled doe tags. The net result may be fewer bucks harvested, but it will certainly mean more does killed and fewer fawns.

Killing does only makes the herd smaller, both this year and next.

Last I turn to Campsen's "all other states" are doing it rationale. I hear mother now: "If all the other kids. . ."

If Campsen wishes to partake in a lemmings leap off the cliff, let him do it on his own. He should not drag our deer herd with him. I expect better of an elected leader than to follow the pack.

The S.C. senate rushed this bill through without debate. If they won't listen, perhaps your house representatives, or Gov. Haley will.

If you want a deer herd in this state, call Haley 803-734-2100 and encourage her to protect our does and veto S. 454.

The writer is a life-long hunter, timber purchaser and lives in Walterboro.



Title: **Haley approves \$1B in borrowing**
 Author: BYSEANNA ADCOX The Associated Press
 Size: 47.43 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238

Haley approves \$1B in borrowing

By SEANNA ADCOX
The Associated Press

Gov. Nikki Haley helped kill a plan by fellow Republicans in the South Carolina House to borrow \$500 million for building projects, accusing them of running up the state's "credit card" debt. Yet Haley herself has approved more than \$1 billion in state-backed borrowing as head of South Carolina's financial oversight board, according to an Associated Press review.

Haley, who has repeatedly dismissed suggestions she's seeking higher office, first slammed the borrowing idea last month as she criticized the Obama administration while touting her conservative credentials. She also likened state Republican leaders who haven't backed her income tax-cut plan to Washington spendthrifts.

Her opposition helped scuttle the borrowing proposal during a chaotic House budget debate.

"We don't want any more debt. Whether it is half a billion or a quarter if (sic) a billion in debt, the taxpayers don't want it," she said on Facebook on March 12, hours before House leaders moved to reject their own plan.

Since Haley took office, the five-member Budget and Control Board she chairs has approved funding more than \$1 billion worth of new projects at South Carolina's public colleges through bonds, mostly at the

University of South Carolina and Clemson, the AP found. That includes Wednesday's vote that let Clemson borrow \$69.5 million to renovate Littlejohn Coliseum.

Though most of that \$1.1 billion is considered the universities' debt, backed by tuition or fees, the state is still ultimately responsible.

Haley's debt dance has incensed lawmakers in her own party and those across the aisle.

"Her goal is the national stage and I'm not sure what exactly yet, but it's apparent she wants to use the General Assembly to get there," GOP Rep. Mike Pitts said after Haley first began berating lawmakers over the bond proposal.

The governor, said House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, D-Columbia, is a "selfish, vindictive narcissist who is more concerned about her own future political ambitions than the state of South Carolina."

Rutherford called Haley a hypocrite, noting that in 2013, Haley eagerly signed a bill that borrowed \$120 million for Boeing's expansion plans in North Charleston. The bond bill would have included \$35 million for an aeronautical training center at Trident Tech near Boeing, as well as \$50 million for the Medical University of South Carolina's new Children's Hospital.

Borrowing is also a major component of the 2013 road-funding bill Haley touts as a

major accomplishment of her first term.

"Bonds are meant for big infrastructure needs, big economic development infrastructure, big road infrastructure, and things that are not the normal course of business," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said in response. She also called Rutherford's comments "hate speech."

However, an AP review of Budget and Control Board documents since January 2011 shows Haley has also approved paying for small projects such as new fire alarm systems, handicap-access upgrades and roof repair through bonding.

The \$1.1 billion tally excludes votes to refinance existing debt to benefit from lower interest rates. It also excludes federally enabled, tax-exempt borrowing the board approved for businesses and nonprofits such as hospitals and private colleges. The two borrowing packages Haley voted against, totaling \$260 million, fell into that category, according to meeting minutes.

Haley has repeatedly singled out Ways and Means Chairman Brian White and criticized his committee's proposal, more than half of which would have gone to technical colleges and universities, as funding "wish

list" items through a secretive process.

White contends the list was developed from agencies' presentations during budget hearings. He called Haley's repeated use of the credit card analogy disappointing.

"It's not a credit card. It's much like buying a house or adding onto your house - taking a mortgage out," said White, R-Anderson. The idea was to fund infrastructure needs while interest rates remain near historic lows.

State spending on debt would not have risen, since old debt is being paid off, he said. The Legislature hasn't passed a bond bill in 15 years.

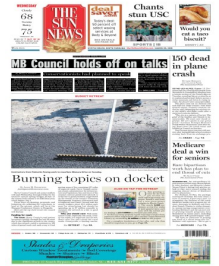
Last week, Haley told a room full of technical college presidents that her opposition was not about the projects on the list. She also said she could support a different bond package.

"The reason the bond bill failed is because it was a bill that was not thoughtfully processed," Haley said at a S.C. Technical College System luncheon. "I didn't know what you did or didn't ask for. ... If there is a bond bill that is thought out, we will do that."

That stunned White.

"After her saying you must pay as you go, to hear this is quite shocking," he said.

Title: **MB Council holds off on talks**
 Author: BYMAYA T. PRABHU mprabhu@thesunnews.com
 Size: 26.81 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



OFFSHORE DRILLING

MB Council holds off on talks

Conservationists had planned to speak

By MAYA T. PRABHU
 mprabhu@thesunnews.com

Myrtle Beach City Council will wait two weeks before tackling a proposed resolution that opposes seismic testing and offshore drilling along South Carolina's coast.

Councilman Mike Lowder suggested council postpone the discussion early Tuesday afternoon during council's

workshop, saying there would not be enough time to debate the issue before the 2 p.m. council meeting. The workshop began at 9 a.m.

At the 2 p.m. meeting, Mayor John Rhodes said the city did not plan to take public comment on offshore drilling

and instead suggested those for and against the issue have a separate meeting. Each side would be given 30 minutes to present their argument and City Council would then make a decision.

The Conservation Voters of South Carolina had orga-

nized a group of about 30 people to speak against offshore drilling Tuesday during the 2 p.m. meeting in Myrtle Beach.

"The resolution itself doesn't really do anything," said Alan Hancock, cam-

See **DRILLING** | Page 6A

DRILLING

From Page 1A

paigns director with Conservation Voters. "It's up to the state and federal government, of course. But it sends a message."

Council members on Tuesday were split on whether to offer a resolution opposing the

testing.

The federal Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management is now taking comment on what should be included in environmental studies to decide whether areas in the Atlantic are opened to oil and gas development later this decade.

Lowder, Councilman Michael Chestnut and Councilman Wayne Gray said they wanted more information about what would be done before they could make a decision on whether they support the testing and drilling.

"I have no idea what seismic

testing is," Gray said. "I don't know how it works. ... I would like to entertain the discussion but I would like to have someone come in here and tell us more about it."

Councilman Philip Render also said he wasn't sure about all of the details of testing.



Title: **Haleysends veto reminderfor roads discussions**
 Author: BYJEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press
 Size: 48.82 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238

Haley sends veto reminder for roads discussions

By JEFFREY COLLINS
The Associated Press

Gov. Nikki Haley sent letters to the House and Senate on Tuesday, telling members she would veto each chamber's different plan to get more money to fix roads because neither proposal cuts taxes enough.

Haley's letters came the same day separate House and Senate committees started their work on roads bills. Members on both sides said they were unhappy the governor needed to issue a threat just as talks started.

House Ways and Means Chairman Brian White called the letter "disheartening" as

his subcommittee passed a bill that would lower the gas tax by 10 cents a gallon, while raising the sales tax on fuel by 6 percent. The proposal would raise an additional \$400 million a year for roads and White plans to merge it with his proposal to adjust the state's income tax brackets that would cost about \$51 million a year when fully in place in two years.

But Haley's letter to the House said that income tax cut is too small. Her proposal would raise the gas tax by 10 cents and lower income tax

rates by 2 percentage points that would cost the state \$1.8 billion a year when fully implemented in a decade.

Haley called the House plan a "massive tax increase" in her letter. "I will veto this and any other proposal that increases gas taxes without a significant cut to income taxes," Haley wrote.

The Senate Finance Committee planned Tuesday to discuss Sen. Ray Cleary's plan to raise an additional \$800 million a year for roads by raising the gas tax 10 cents and tying further increases to inflation, cutting a number of

sales tax exemptions and increasing fees on driver's licenses, car tags and other items. But they delayed debate for a day after talking about Haley's letter.

"It is our responsibility to forgo at least some future growth of government and return hard-earned wages back to the people who earned them," Haley said in her Senate letter.

Cleary said with the governor's position clear, it is time for senators to pass what they think is best and let her hand-

See **HALEY** | Page 7C

HALEY

From Page 1C

le the fallout.

"We'll never satisfy the governor unless we do it her way, and I don't think her way would pass through the Leg-

islature," said Cleary, R-Murrells Inlet.

The veto threat comes as South Carolina's business community is putting increasing pressure on the state to do something. South Carolina Petroleum Marke-

ters Association Executive Director Michael Fields said his group is backing a gas tax increase for the first time because something needs to be done to roads.

A group of several dozen South Carolina businesses

called the South Carolina Alliance to Fix Our Roads wants the House to find even more money for highways. Chairman Eric Dickey quoted a former state Department of Transportation di-



Title: **Haleysends veto reminderfor roads discussions**
 Author: BYJEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press
 Size: 48.82 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238

rector and said that money bleeding.”

would only allow the state to manage the decline of its highway system.

“The numbers we are talking about today are not going to solve the problem,” Dickey said. “They may just stop the

White said it is obvious the business community wants better roads and Haley should be prepared to deal with the consequences if no road plan is passed.

One of those consequences

might be reduced economic development. White, R-Anderson, brought back the word of Michelin North America Chairman Pete Sell-eck who called the state roads a disgrace and suggested the company might look else-

where to expand unless something is done.

“He didn’t say he was not going to locate another plant in South Carolina unless we cut the income tax,” White said.

BY SUSAN WALSH *Associated Press file photo*

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley waits for President Barack Obama to speak in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.

