

SENATE CONFIRMATION
CONFIDENTIAL PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTICE: The information requested herein is needed to assist the Senate in its screening of candidates. This document is made available to and used by the appropriate Committee of jurisdiction and is not made public. Since this questionnaire is the initial step in the appointment and confirmation process, it should be returned to the Governor's Office as soon as possible. Please use additional sheets as necessary to complete this document.

Office or Seat to which you are being appointed: South Carolina State Ports Authority

1. NAME: Mr. William H. Stern
Ms.

HOME ADDRESS: 2134 Bermuda Hills Road
Columbia, SC 29223

BUSINESS ADDRESS: 8910 Two Notch Road, 5th Floor
Columbia, SC 29223

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (home) 803.788.4314
(office): 803.419.1234

RESIDE IN SENATE DISTRICT#: 22 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT#: 2nd

2. Date and Place of Birth: October 10, 1956 Social Security #: 250-80-2423
Columbia, SC

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past 5 years? Yes

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: 002233583 Voter Registration Number: 1 705 534

5. Family Status: Are you single ();
 married (X);
 widowed (); or
 divorced ()?

(a) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name.

May 30, 1982 Linda Cherry Stern

(b) If you have ever been divorced, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds.
NO

- (c) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

Brian J. Stern 31 – Real Estate Developer
Jason A. Stern 27 – Real Estate Developer
Benjamin A. Stern – 23

6. Have you ever served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number, present status, and the character of your discharge or release.

NO

7. List each college and graduate or professional school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.

University of Miami, 1975
University of South Carolina 1976 – 1978

Went to work for Ben Stern Construction in 1978

8. List the states in which you have been licensed and/or admitted to a professional practice and the year of each license and/or admission. Also, list any states in which you took a professional license exam, but were never admitted to the practice. If you took an exam more than once in any of the states listed please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

N/A

9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and/or professional school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.

N/A

10. Briefly describe any continuing education during the past five years.

N/A

11. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and dates of publication for each.

N/A

12. If an attorney, list all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies which require a special admission to practice.

N/A

13. Have you ever held public office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed.

NO

14. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

NO

15. Since completing your education, list any occupation, business, or profession in which you have been engaged other than holding public office. Give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

Commercial Real Estate Developer
Stern & Stern and Associates (Owner/President)

1984

16. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.

Stern & Stern and Associates – Commercial Real Estate Company

17. Provide a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings
 - b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

A sample net worth statement is provided with this questionnaire for you convenience. You may use any other comparable form if it was prepared within the past six months.

18. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships which you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

NONE

19. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation or county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so give details but do not include traffic violations for which a fine of \$125 or less was imposed.

NO

20. Have federal, state, or local authorities ever instituted a tax lien or other collection procedure against you? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details.

NO

21. Have you ever been sued, personally or professionally? If so, give details.

NO

22. Have you ever been disciplined or sited for unprofessional conduct or a breach of ethics by any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? Have you ever been the subject of a formal complaint, or is there a complaint pending against you before such a group? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition.

NO

23. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code §2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

NO

24. Since being notified of your possible appointment, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code §2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

NO

25. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf, in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek.

N/A

26. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to the appointing authority or members of the General Assembly within six months of the filing of this questionnaire.

Kirkman Finley	\$2,000.00
Leon Stavrinakis	\$1,000.00

27. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your confirmation for the position for which you are being appointed?

NO

28. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? If so, give details.

NO

29. Have you or has anyone on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

NO

30. List all professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.

International Council of Shopping Centers - ICSC

31. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.

Beth Shalom Synagogue	Diamond Creek Country Club
Spring Valley Country Club	The Palmetto Club
Linville Ridge Country Club	

32. List any local, county or statewide board, commission, council or other body on which you currently serve which constitutes the holding of an office under the provisions of Article VI, Section 3 of the South Carolina Constitution, to wit:

No person may hold two offices of honor or profit at the same time. This limitation does not apply to officers in the militia, notaries public, members of lawfully and regularly organized fire departments, constables, or delegates to a constitutional convention.

South Carolina State Ports Authority

33. Provide any other information which may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of appointment to the position that you seek.

Commission on Higher Education (1994-2000)

Appointed by Governor Campbell and reappointed by Governor Beasley

South Carolina State Ports Authority

Appointed by Governor Hodges and reappointed by Governor Sanford

Ameris Bank – Corporate Director

34. List the **names**, **addresses** and **telephone numbers** of five persons, including your banker, who will provide letters of reference. Letters should be *addressed* the South Carolina Senate and **must be mailed with your completed application to: Office of the Governor, ATTN: Katie Philpott, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29201.**

(a) Mr. Richard Sturm
Ameris Bank
1333 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803.733.2681

(b) Mr. Tom Harrell
Elliott Davis Decosimo
1901 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201
803.255.1477

(c) Mr. John Sowards
Nexsen Pruet LLC
1230 Main Street, Suite 700
Columbia, SC 29201
803.253.8226


(d) Mr. Joe E. Taylor, Jr.
Southland Capital Partners LLC
146 State Street
West Columbia, SC 29169
803.261.1458

(e) Mr. Thad Westbrook
Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough
1320 Main Street, 17th Floor
Columbia, SC 29201
803.255.1568

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE
CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE ANY PROFESSIONAL GRIEVANCE
COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY
KNOWLEDGE.

Date: February 13, 2015

Signature: 
William H. Stern

Addendum to Question 34 of the Senate Personal Data Questionnaire

Question 34 asks for a list of five individuals willing to provide letters of reference. These letters are required by the Senate before they will consider a nomination. It is the responsibility of the nominee to contact and request a letter of reference from each individual and include the letters with the application materials when they are mailed.

Tips and Guidelines for Letters of Reference:

1. *It is required by the Senate that one letter come from your banker.* This requirement is somewhat outdated in that, in an era of ATM's and online banking, a good number of people do not have a direct personal relationship with a bank employee anymore. A letter from a branch manager or account manager stating that the banking relationship is sound and that accounts are in good standing will suffice.

2. *Try to get letters from as many different perspectives as possible.* Avoid requesting letters from the same type of individual. For example, letters from a colleague from work, a pastor or fellow church member, a fellow member of a civic or community organization, and a longtime neighbor would give a well rounded perspective of a nominee's involvement in the community. Letters from a nominee's attorney, insurance agent, doctor, or personal friends are also acceptable— anyone with whom the nominee has a longstanding relationship. It is even better if they are a prominent member of the community.

3. *Letters should be addressed to the South Carolina Senate in the following manner:*

South Carolina Senate
State House
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate,

4. *Length and content.* Letters should be brief – one page or shorter. Letters should let the Senate know who the author is, the author's relationship with the nominee, how long the author has known the nominee, and any other relevant information necessary to provide a good reference.

5. *Nominees are responsible for collecting letters of reference.* Nominees should ask that letters of reference be mailed or delivered directly to them. Once all letters are collected, they should be mailed to the Governor's Office with the rest of the application materials.

*****Please note: Letters need to be included in your complete application packet, which is returned to the Governor's office. *****



Office of the Governor State of South Carolina

Application for Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Your nomination **will not** be complete until this application is filed. Please return the application to:
Office of the Governor, Attn: Katie Philpott, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.

1] Your Name:

Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms. Stern William H.
Last First Middle

2] Name of Board, Commission, or Committee you are being considered for:

South Carolina State Ports Authority

3] Your Current Address, City, Zip Code and County: Your Congressional District: 2nd

2134 Bermuda Hills, Columbia SC 29223 – Richland County

4] Home Telephone: 803.788.4314 5] Office Telephone: 803.419.1234 6] Fax: 803.419.3057

7] Mobile Telephone: 803.920.4321 8] Email Address: Bill@sternproperties.biz

9] Drivers License # 002233583 10] Social Security #: 250-80-2423

11] Voter Registration # 1 705 534 12] Date of Birth: 10/10/56

13] Race: White 14] Sex: Male / Female

15] Level of Educational Background Completed:

Some High School _____

High School graduate or equivalence (G.E.D.) _____

Some College X

College graduate _____

Professional degree (please specify) _____

16] Present Employer Stern & Stern and Associates

Address 8910 Two Notch Road, Suite 500, Columbia SC 29223

Current Position Owner/President

17] Years of residence in South Carolina: 58

18] Have you ever been arrested for a crime other than a minor traffic violation? NO If so, give details.*

- 19] Have you filed state and federal income tax returns for the past five years? Yes If not, give details.*
- 20] Are you or any company in which you have a controlling interest delinquent in any local, state or federal taxes? No If so, give details.*
- 21] Have you ever defaulted on any state or federal student loan? No If so, give details.*
- 22] Have you been treated for any alcohol, drug addiction, or substance abuse for the preceding five years? No
If so, give details.*
- 23] Have you been party (plaintiff or defendant) in any state or federal litigation for the preceding five years? No
If so, give details.*
- 24] Have you ever served in the military? No
Were you honorably discharged? _____ If not, give details.*
- 25] Have you ever been terminated from employment for cause? No If so, give details.*
- 26] Have you or any employer in the preceding ten years been investigated, reprimanded, fined, or suspended for doing business with any state or federal agency? No If so, give details.*
- 27] Have you ever been disciplined or fined by the State Ethics Commission? No If so, give details.*
- 28] Have you ever been disciplined or fined by any professional or regulatory agency? No If so, give details.*
- 29] Do you serve on any local or state board, commission, committee, or elected office? Yes If so, list.*
South Carolina State Ports Authority
- 30] Are you a registered lobbyist in the State of South Carolina? No
- 31] Do you or any member of your immediate family receive any income, compensation or benefits from state and local agencies in South Carolina? No If so, give details.*
- 32] Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest in any business that has, is, or will do business with the State of South Carolina or the entity for which you are applying? No If so, give details.*
- 33] Are you or any member of your immediate family associated with any business regulated by the entity to which you are applying? No If yes, give details.*

34] Have you or any member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented personal property to any state or local public agency in South Carolina? No If so, please identify *:

- a) the type of property,
- b) the name of the agency(s) involved,
- c) the value of the transaction(s).

35] Do you or any member of your immediate family owe a debt in excess of \$500 to any creditor regulated by the entity to which you are applying? No If so, give details.* (Do not disclose debt promised or loaned by a bank, savings and loan or other licensed financial institution.)

36] Do you or any member of your immediate family owe a debt in excess of \$500 to any creditor seeking a business relationship with the entity for which you are applying? No If so, give details.* (Do not disclose debt promised or loaned by a bank, savings and loan or other licensed financial institution.)

37] Do you or any member of your immediate family receive compensation from any individual or business that contracts with the entity for which you are applying? No If yes, please identify *:

- a) the individual or business,
- b) the amount of compensation paid to you,
- c) the nature and amount of the contract,
- d) the governmental entity involved.

38] I, William H. Stern, agree that, if I am appointed to the The South Carolina State Ports Authority, I will attend all stated or called meetings of this entity. If I am absent from three consecutive meetings, or if I am absent from half of the meetings within a six-month period, then I will resign my appointment. However, if the Chairperson excuses my absence prior to the meeting, in recognition of circumstances beyond my control (illness, family emergency, etc.), then I am entitled to retain my position.

*Use extra sheet if necessary.

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT

Personally appeared before me, the applicant, who being duly sworn, disposed, and says that all his/her statements are true, accurate and complete: and that he/she knows and agrees that any misrepresentation or omission of the facts may result in his/her being disqualified or being discharged should he/she already be appointed by the Governor. He/she authorizes the State Law Enforcement Division to conduct a background investigation including, but not limited to, a criminal history, driving record and credit check. He/she also authorizes the Governor's Office to provide the nominating authorities with copies of this application, the criminal history and credit report and any other information gathered in processing this appointment.

William H. Stern

Applicant's Signature

Sworn and subscribed before me this 25th day of February, Two Thousand and 15.

Sharon M. Friel

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires November 16, 2019

GENERAL INFORMATION

Are any assets pledged?

(Add schedule)

Are you defendant in any suits or legal actions?

Have you ever taken bankruptcy?

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Date: 2-24-15

Signature: W ~ H. Stern
WILLIAM H. STERN

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stern

Report on Financial Statement

As of December 31, 2014



Accountant's Compilation Report

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stern
Columbia, South Carolina

We have compiled the accompanying statement of financial condition of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stern as of December 31, 2014. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statement and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or any assurance about whether the financial statement is in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Mr. & Mrs. William H. Stern are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement.

Our responsibility is to conduct the compilation in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist Mr. & Mrs. William H. Stern in presenting financial information in the form of a financial statement without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statement.

Elliott Davis Decosimo, LLC

Columbia, South Carolina
February 9, 2015

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stern**Statement of Financial Condition****As of December 31, 2014**

	<u>2014</u>
Assets	
Cash	\$ 3,600,556
Total cash	<u>3,600,556</u>
Other assets	
Marketable stocks and bonds	16,894,396
Corporate retirement account	308,327
Individual retirement account	21,862
Real estate	6,490,000
Personal property	2,850,000
Closely-held partnerships and corporations	44,854,661
Receivables from related entities	<u>16,458,734</u>
Total other assets	<u>87,877,980</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 91,478,536</u>
Liabilities and Net Worth	
Liabilities	
Notes and mortgages payable	\$ 7,767,420
Shareholder and partner loans from related entities	16,540,329
Estimated income taxes on the difference between the estimated current values of assets and the estimated current amounts of liabilities and their tax bases	<u>7,473,175</u>
Total liabilities	<u>31,780,924</u>
Net Worth	
Net worth	<u>59,697,612</u>
Total net worth	<u>59,697,612</u>
Total liabilities and net worth	<u>\$ 91,478,536</u>

See Accountant's Compilation Report and Notes to Financial Statement

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stern

Notes to Financial Statement

December 31, 2014

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying financial statement includes the assets and liabilities of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stern. Assets and liabilities are generally stated at their estimated values as of December 31, 2014.

The financial statement includes estimates and assumptions that affect the individuals' financial condition and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Minor personal effects, normal unpaid bills and accruals, and any other similar items which would have an immaterial effect on net worth may not be included in this financial statement.

Estimated current values of real estate, including real estate held by closely-held companies, are based on sales of comparable properties. Estimated current values of traded securities are the quoted price as of the close of business as of December 31, 2014 as provided by the brokerage statement. Estimated current values of all other assets are based on the most appropriate basis available for the particular asset. All values were furnished by Mr. William H. Stern.

Financial information concerning Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stern's investments in closely-held businesses and long-term debt are generally as of and for the period ended September 30, 2014 unless otherwise stated. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stern are not aware of any events subsequent to September 30, 2014, other than those disclosed, that would significantly alter the current values of their investment interests as of December 31, 2014.

Note 2. Estimated Income Tax

Estimated income taxes have been provided on the basis of the estimated current value of assets over their tax bases as if the estimated current value had been realized on the financial statement date, using applicable tax laws and regulations. The provision will probably differ from the amount of income taxes that might eventually be paid because those amounts will be determined by the timing and method of disposal or realization. The estimated values of the assets exceeded their tax bases by \$30,527,654 at December 31, 2014. The excess of estimated current values of major assets over their tax bases is as follows:

Real estate	\$ 381,000
Individual and corporate retirement account	330,189
Closely-held partnerships and corporations	27,661,893
Marketable securities and bonds	<u>2,154,572</u>
	<u>\$ 30,527,654</u>



February 11, 2015

South Carolina State Ports Authority
South Carolina State Senate
State House
Columbia, SC

RE: William H. Stern

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate,

Mr. Stern has been a client of our firm since 1996 and I have had the privilege of working closely with him on tax and other business matters during that time. He has always demonstrated the highest moral and business characteristics in all of our dealings.

Please let me know if I can provide any further information.

Very truly yours,

ELLIOTT DAVIS DECOSIMO LLC

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom", is written over a horizontal line.

R. Thomas Harrell, CPA



February 17, 2015

South Carolina Senate
State House
Columbia, South Carolina

Re: William H. (Bill) Stern
Reappointment to the South Carolina State Ports Authority

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate:

It is my pleasure to recommend Bill Stern for another term with the South Carolina State Ports Authority. Bill is a well-respected businessman in South Carolina, known for his integrity and honesty. I am confident he will continue to do an outstanding job for the Ports Authority and the State of South Carolina.

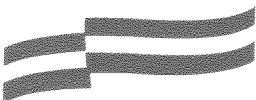
I have known Bill for a number of years and have had the pleasure of working with him as a member of the Ameris Bank Board of Directors. In all of our business dealings Bill has maintained a sound banking relationship and all of his accounts are in good standing.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard Sturm'.

Richard Sturm
Regional President
Ameris Bank, SC
803.733.2681



John A. Sowards
CHAIRMAN

February 12, 2015

South Carolina Senate
c/o Senate Confirmation
Suite 410
P. O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Re: Recommendation of William H. Stern for Re-Appointment to the
South Carolina State Ports Authority

Dear Honorable Members of the South Carolina Senate:

I was extremely happy to learn that William H. Stern has been recommended for your consideration on reappointment to the South Carolina State Ports Authority. Bill Stern is an excellent choice and I am pleased to recommend your confirmation of his nomination by Governor Haley.

Charleston
Charlotte

Columbia

Greensboro

Greenville

Hilton Head

Myrtle Beach

Raleigh

Bill has exhibited an enormous commitment to public service for many years and his service on the Ports Authority for nearly thirteen (13) years has been truly exemplary. Bill has continuously proven that commitment through his selfless devotion and steadfast attention to serving the Ports Authority.

Bill is a natural leader and an extremely capable businessman whose advice and counsel is sought by many. Having that leadership and business acumen available to the Ports Authority is invaluable, in my opinion.

I am pleased to highly recommend William H. Stern to you and trust that you will grant speedy confirmation to this excellent South Carolinian.

Very truly yours,


John A. Sowards

1230 Main Street
Suite 700 (29201)
PO BOX 2426
Columbia, SC 29202
www.nexsenpruet.com

T 803.253.8226

F 803.727.1426

E JSowards@nexsenpruet.com

Nexsen Pruet, LLC

Attorneys and Counselors at Law

Nelson Mullins

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP

Attorneys and Counselors at Law

1320 Main Street / 17th Floor / Columbia, SC 29201

Tel: 803.799.2000 Fax: 803.255.9088

www.nelsonmullins.com

Thad H. Westbrook

Tel: 803.255.5568

Fax: 803.255.9088

thad.westbrook@nelsonmullins.com

February 20, 2015

South Carolina Senate
State House
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

RE: South Carolina State Ports Authority – Bill H. Stern

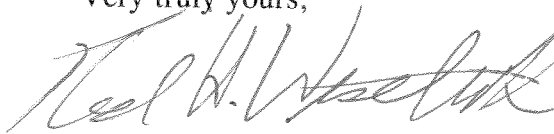
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate:

I write in support of Bill H. Stern's nomination for reappointment to the Board of Directors for the South Carolina State Ports Authority. I have had the pleasure of knowing Bill both professionally and personally for several years, and I strongly recommend him for reappointment to the Board.

Bill is a well-respected businessman who has served South Carolina in many capacities. He has successfully led the South Carolina State Ports Authority as Chairman of its Board of Directors, and much of the State Ports Authority's growth and its valuable contributions to the economic development of our state are due to his strong leadership. Bill is completely committed to serving our state, and he will continue to be an excellent board member. Bill's business experience, life experiences, integrity and sense of service are all reasons why I give him my highest recommendation to serve on the Board of Directors for the South Carolina State Ports Authority. The State of South Carolina is fortunate to have Bill serving in this important position.

Please feel free to contact me any time if you would like to discuss my recommendation and support for Bill Stern.

Very truly yours,



Thad H. Westbrook

THW:thw

Joe E. Taylor, Jr.

146 State Street
West Columbia, SC 29169

Tel. 803.765.2448
jtaylor@parkandwashington.com

February 23, 2015

South Carolina Senate
State House
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate,

It is an honor to write you today recommending William H. (Bill) Stern for confirmation as member of the board for the State Ports Authority.

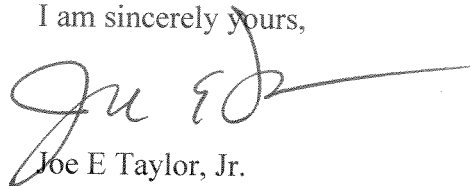
First, Bill's loyalty to the State of South Carolina is without question. His efforts have always been in his state's best interest. Second, he possesses one of the best business minds that I know of, his ability to think through and determine the best course to pursue and to negotiate the deal is without peer.

Third is Bill's honor and loyalty. I have known him all my life. His loyalty to his country, his state, his family, and his friends is never at risk. His conduct is always honorable.

Our great state has been blessed to have Bill serve as a member and as chairman of the State Ports Authority. Your support of his continued service will be appreciated by every citizen of South Carolina, myself included.

Please feel welcome to contact me if I can provide additional support or answer any questions.

I am sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe E. Taylor, Jr.", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe E Taylor, Jr.
Former S.C. Secretary of Commerce (2006-2011)

JET/vac