

From: Baker, Josh <JoshBaker@gov.sc.gov>
To: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 5/14/2014 9:59:02 AM
Subject: Denmark School District Millage Letter

Katherine,

Here is the text of the original letter; let me know if there is anything else that I can do?

I am writing today to voice my concerns about House Bill 5024, a bill that authorizes the Board of Denmark-Olar School District No. 2 to levy property tax millage for capital construction for the purpose of rebuilding the district's elementary and middle schools. The bill further affords the board the authority to use enterprise funding agreements to finance school construction.

School districts have traditionally been required to seek voter approval in order to access additional tax revenues for infrastructure needs. While I support innovative methods for developing public infrastructure, I cannot support a bill that would remove voters from the process of approving a new tax.

Unfortunately, efforts to work with the bill's primary sponsor to remedy my concerns have been unsuccessful, so I request that a public referendum be added to this bill and that it be given a vote of the full General Assembly before it comes to my desk.

My very best,

Joshua D. Baker
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