

**From:** James Schofield <jts@thesupplyhouse.com>  
**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**CC:** 'KG R Smith'kgrsmith@florenceco.org  
Zeigler, Benbzeigler@hsblawfirm.com  
Malloy McEachinmalloy@mceachinlawfirm.com  
**Date:** 5/23/2014 7:25:45 AM  
**Subject:** RE: H5225 special purpose district for Florence County

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Katherine:

After last night's victory celebration, Representative Lowe said he would be sending a video of the 250 – 300 citizens who approve of this new Special Tax District.

Please be aware that under the County Council plan about 45,000 of our citizens will get a tax decrease some as much as 18 mills when we treat all citizens equally in regards to paying for fire service. About 25,000 will see a tax increase, some of whom are the wealthiest of the citizens that live in Florence County.

To really get a perspective on this the Governor should realize, that all of this hurried up action without proper vetting by committees of the General Assembly to pass a bill that is legally flawed, and makes no provision for who funds them between now and when taxes are again mailed in November, or who is in charge of them until after September is all about those citizens having to pay \$37.60 more per 100,000 of valuation on their homes per year. All citizens in this county who use fire and first response all over this county will pay the same rate of millage for that service under our consolidation of the districts. Paying for first response service is not just about where you sleep and you should not be able to pay less than everyone else, because where you sleep has a lot of high priced homes, these citizens receive the benefits of first response not just where they sleep, but where they work, where they play, where they drive. Why should other citizens have to pay more millage than them to provide this service for a few of the more affluent citizens in our county?

There are significantly more voters who will support this plan in Florence County than a select few in one small but well connected political area. This bill allows one fire district to be exempt from Act 388 but require all others to still be restrained in providing adequate fire service, when the people understand this, and they will before November, I am sure that their displeasure at this bad legislation will be reflected at the ballot box. The voters of Florence County overwhelmingly voted against the wishes of Senator Leatherman, Lowe and Crawford who tried their best all the way to the Supreme Court where they lost, and then lost again at the ballot box, to not allow home rule to operate as it should, to dictate from Columbia what is best on the local level and how to provide services for our citizens with the Capital Projects Sales Tax Penny #2 that measure passed with over 60% of the vote. This bill is fatally flawed legally in the opinion of many attorneys that I have talked with, I ask the Governor to please not sign a bill that in my opinion will not stand a legal challenge, please save the taxpayers of the County of Florence this expense. It cost our citizens hundreds of thousands of dollars to prevail against a powerful but disgruntled group of legislators last year, The Governor could help us prevent this from happening again.

Sincerely

James T. Schofield  
Chairman  
Florence County Council  
District 8  
P.O. Box 13559  
Florence, S.C. 29504  
[jtsfield@thesupplyhouse.com](mailto:jtsfield@thesupplyhouse.com)  
843 667 1204 ext 104

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**From:** Veldran, Katherine [<mailto:KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2014 4:57 PM  
**To:** James Schofield  
**Subject:** RE: H5225 special purpose district for Florence County

James,  
I appreciate your feedback and will pass it along to our policy shop.  
I will follow up with you tomorrow.  
Thank you,  
Katherine

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**From:** James Schofield [<mailto:jts@thesupplyhouse.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2014 4:26 PM  
**To:** Veldran, Katherine  
**Subject:** RE: H5225 special purpose district for Florence County

Representative Lowe is for this bill so I am sure his version to the Governor would be different from mine.

For the Governor to sign off on a bill that prohibits the City of Florence from annexation in this special purpose district, prohibits mutual aid fire service to other districts, exempts one special district from Act 388 at the expense of the other districts, when this will hurt Economic Development in Florence County, When this bill does not even provide a mechanism to transfer from one tax system to another and leaves many questions of who will pay for fire service between the new budget year and September when they get a commission, when it creates a district with no one in Charge for several months, I think would just be incompressible to me.

Only one thing going on here, the people did not do what the Senator and Lowe wanted in the Capital Project penny last year and overwhelmingly voted against them as well as a unanimous decision at the Supreme Court on the issue.

Someone should stop the wasting of Taxpayer money hiring lawyers, the Governor has a chance to do that.

Once again I ask for a chance to be heard by the Governors Staff just the same as Representative Lowe was afforded.

James Schofield  
Republican Member of Florence County Council

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**From:** Veldran, Katherine [<mailto:KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2014 3:21 PM  
**To:** James Schofield  
**Subject:** RE: H5225 special purpose district for Florence County

Thank you again for this information.  
I spoke with Representative Lowe today about the bill.  
Thank you,  
Katherine

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**From:** James Schofield [<mailto:jts@thesupplyhouse.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2014 5:00 PM  
**To:** Veldran, Katherine  
**Subject:** RE: H5225 special purpose district for Florence County

Thank you.

I am available anytime day or night at your request.

Thanks

James Schofield

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**From:** Veldran, Katherine [<mailto:KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2014 4:54 PM  
**To:** James Schofield  
**Cc:** KG R Smith  
**Subject:** RE: H5225 special purpose district for Florence County

Received.  
I will follow up.  
Thank you,  
Katherine

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**From:** James Schofield [<mailto:jts@thesupplyhouse.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2014 4:46 PM  
**To:** Veldran, Katherine  
**Cc:** KG R Smith  
**Subject:** H5225 special purpose district for Florence County

Dear Ms. Veldran:

Please convey the following document to the Governor and or her staff. I respectfully request a meeting with the Governor or her staff before signing of this legislation into law.

Sincerely

James T. Schofield  
Chairman  
Florence County Council  
District 8  
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Florence, S.C. 29504  
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