

Title: **Flag Observance**

Author:

Size: 4.03 square inch

 Laurens, SC Circulation: 7825



Flag Observance

Governor Nikki Haley has requested that the flags be flown at half-staff from sunup to sundown on Thursday, March 24, 2016, in memory of Officer Allen Lee Jacobs of the City of Greenville Police Department.

Gov. Haley has also requested that the flags be flown at half-staff from sunup to sundown on Friday, March 25, 2016, in memory of Firefighter Christopher Gene Ray of the City of Conway Fire Department.



Title: **South Carolina Senate OKs bill to setup refugee registry**
 Author: BY JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press
 Size: 28.83 square inch
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015

South Carolina Senate OKs bill to set up refugee registry

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA

The South Carolina Senate passed a bill Wednesday that would require refugees to register with the state and hold their sponsors liable if they commit an act of terror or violent crime.

The bill moves on to the House. If ultimately passed and signed by the governor, it could become the first measure of its kind in the country. The chief supporter of the bill said the goal is to keep South Carolina safe from the kinds of attacks carried out this week in Belgium and recently in California and Paris.

“We can make South Carolina out of the 50

states the most unwelcome state for refugees,” said state Sen. Kevin Bryant, a Republican from Anderson.

Opponents of the bill said it didn’t fit South Carolina’s oft mentioned Christian values, such as loving one’s neighbors.

The National Conference of State Legislatures said South Carolina and New York are the only states that have proposed measures to register refugees.

“This may be the first time the Legislature in South Carolina and the Legislature in the state of New York are on the same page,” said Bryant, adding New York already has suffered from terrorist attacks.

South Carolina is in the middle of the South’s

so-called Bible belt, with Republicans controlling both chambers in the Legislature and the governor’s office. The state drew international attention last June when nine African-Americans were shot to death at a church in Charleston. Authorities arrested a white man they say was motivated by racial hatred in the killings. He is awaiting trial.

The bill requires refugees resettled by the federal government into South Carolina to register with its Department of Social Services. That agency would share the information with state police, who would be asked under the measure to confirm that the refugees aren’t security risks and report back to lawmakers.

The bill passed 39-6.

Some Democrats supported the measure after Bryant agreed to remove a requirement that no state money be spent on refugees — including funds to educate their children. Bryant also removed a provision that would make the registry public after many lawmakers worried that would threaten the safety of the refugees.

State Sen. Brad Hutto voted against the bill because he worried it was unconstitutional because it singles out people based on their country of origin.

He said he doubts any court would hold an organization that helps refugees responsible for a criminal act.

“I think there is a higher likelihood of being struck by lightning while drowning,” said Hutto, a Democrat from Orangeburg.

Gov. Nikki Haley’s office didn’t immediately comment on the bill Wednesday.

Title: **Haley to feds: Stop plutonium shipments**
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD Associated Press
 Size: 19.68 square inch
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



Haley to feds: Stop plutonium shipments

BY MEG KINNARD
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA

Federal officials must stop sending nuclear materials to South Carolina and should reroute a shipment of plutonium coming from Japan, Gov. Nikki Haley told the U.S. government in a letter.

The Republican governor's demand is part of a long-running dispute with the federal government over where the materials should be stored. Last month, South Carolina sued the Energy Department, saying it had failed to remove plutonium from the state as promised.

"It is imperative to the safety of our citizens and our environment that South Carolina not allow this to happen," Haley wrote to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, asking him to stop or reroute a shipment of 331 kilograms of plutonium coming to the Savannah River Site. "Therefore, stop shipment or re-route this defense plutonium. God bless."

The shipment left Japan earlier this week, according to Savannah River Site

Watch, a watchdog group that monitors activity related to the site. It is slated to arrive in South Carolina in about two months and, according to the group, consists of plutonium supplied to Japan in the 1960s and 1970s for nuclear reactor research purposes.

Tons of plutonium have accumulated over the years at the former nuclear weapons complex as part of a nonproliferation agreement with Russia remains incomplete. South Carolina is already suing the federal government over what the governor has called its broken promise to the state to finish the mixed-oxide fuel facility.

Because the facility wasn't operational by a Jan. 1 deadline, the federal government was supposed to remove 1 metric ton of plutonium from South Carolina or pay fines of \$1 million a day for "economic and impact assistance" — up to \$100 million yearly — until either the facility meets production goals or the plutonium is taken elsewhere for storage or disposal.

Title: **Haley tells US to stop sending plutonium**
 Author: MEG KINNARD ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Size: 31.46 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Haley tells US to stop sending plutonium

MEG KINNARD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Federal officials must stop sending nuclear materials to South Carolina and should reroute a shipment of plutonium coming from Japan, Gov. Nikki Haley told the U.S. government in a letter.

The Republican governor's demand is part of a long-running dispute with the federal government over where the materials should be stored. Last month, South Carolina sued the Energy Department, saying it had failed to remove plutonium from the state as promised.

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The shipment left Japan earlier this week, according to Savannah River Site Watch, a watchdog group that monitors activity related to the site. It is slated to arrive in South Carolina in about two months and, according to the

group, consists of plutonium supplied to Japan in the 1960s and 1970s for nuclear reactor research purposes.

Tons of plutonium have accumulated over the years at the former nuclear weapons complex, where a facility to process such materials into commercial nuclear reactor fuel, as part of a non-proliferation agreement with Russia, remains incomplete. South Carolina is already suing the federal government over what the governor has called its broken promise to the state to finish the mixed-oxide fuel facility, which is billions over budget and behind schedule.

Because the facility wasn't operational by a Jan. 1 deadline, the federal government was supposed to remove 1 metric ton of plutonium from South Carolina or pay fines of \$1 million a day for "economic and impact assistance" — up to \$100 million yearly — until either the facility meets production goals or the plutonium is taken elsewhere for storage or disposal.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in February, seeks the daily fines and removal of the plutonium.

The Energy Department has not responded to the lawsuit in court, and an agency spokeswoman did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The Obama administration has gradually scaled down funding for the project, proposing to mothball it in 2014, citing cost overruns and delays. That prompted an earlier lawsuit, with the state saying the federal government had made a commitment to South Carolina and couldn't use money intended to build the plant to shut it down.

The state ultimately dropped the suit when the administration committed to funding the project through that fiscal year. But the administration has since said it's searching for a less expensive way to dispose of the plutonium, like immobilizing it in glass or processing it in different kinds of reactors.

President Barack Obama's most recent budget included minimal funding for the project. Lawmakers including Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, a program backer, have pledged to ensure it stays funded.

Title: **Haley fears roads-fight risk**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 53.16 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Haley fears roads-fight risk

TIM SMITH

TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley says she is pleased both legislative chambers have agreed to spend about the same amount of money on roads but is pushing the House to agree to the Senate roads bill to ensure restructuring of the state's highway commission happens.

But if the House agrees with the Senate's road plan, one House leader says that would negate what the House did in hours of work on its budget Tuesday night.

The House approved spending \$415 million on roads while

rejecting any increase in the state's gas tax. Hours later, Haley on Wednesday pressed House leaders to finish work on the issue by accepting what the Senate has done in its roads bill without insisting on any House amendments.

The governor said she fears if the House does anything different, no roads bill may pass this year.

"What you're seeing is an ownership fight," she said.

The Senate-passed plan would spend \$400 million in recurring

funds on roads, while allowing the governor to appoint highway commissioners and requiring that any projects approved by the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank are also approved by the state Department of Transportation Board.

The House last year passed a roads bill that raised about \$400 million more annually for roads by applying a sales tax at the wholesale level to gas, effectively raising the price at the pump 10 cents per gallon, and by raising the cap on the sales tax on

See ROADS, Page 7A

Roads

Continued from Page 3A

cars. The bill also gave the governor the power to appoint highway commissioners, expanded the Infrastructure Bank and reduced the project threshold required for bank financing.

The House budget includes about \$415 million for roads, including \$50 million more for county transportation committees and \$100 million in Department of Motor Vehicle fees that can then be used for bonds through the Infrastructure Bank. Only about half the \$415 million is recurring money.

House leaders had criticized the Senate roads bill as not addressing the state's long-term needs because all of the money in

the bill is taken from the general fund and there is no sustainable funding source such as the gas tax.

House Speaker Jay Lucas told Haley last week that House Republicans were still mulling whether to concur with the Senate bill or amend it.

The House left Columbia Wednesday for two weeks after giving final approval to the budget.

Haley said she met with House leaders Wednesday morning.

"We needed them to concur with the Senate on the funding piece of it," she said. "They put over \$400 million into roads which is exactly what we needed them to do and we thanked them for that."

But she also told the leaders that "none of this matters if they don't concur with the Senate and make sure they also have that reform piece."

Haley said there is "political horse trading" by highway commissioners "and the dollars aren't going where they need to," a practice that would end if she is allowed to appoint all the commissioners.

"Roads are maintained based on deals made in the commission," she said.

"We have said to the House, 'If you concur, we can move forward. If you don't concur, we will likely see the roads bill die again this year,'" she said.

Rep. Gary Simrill, a Rock Hill Republican who has spearheaded the House's actions on roads and met with Haley, said if the House concurs with the Senate

bill, that means accepting how the Senate funded road improve-

ments instead of what the House did in its budget, something he said would be a "sticking point" to House members.

"At best it's bad public policy," he said of the Senate funding plan. "I want to make sure policy trumps politics."

He said some House members also want to see a Legislative Audit Council report on DOT due next month before signing off on the Senate's reform efforts.

He said Haley offered to work with lawmakers to draft a plan next year that would produce more sustainable funding. Haley has said she would consider increasing the gas tax if it was paired with a greater income tax cut.

What lawmakers have to be careful of, Simrill said, is if the Senate plan is enacted and the

Legislature must spend \$400 million from the general fund each year on roads, and there is another deal that produces a gas tax hike and an income tax cut of \$400 million, that would mean \$800 million obligated per year

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from the general fund, something that could draw a concern of credit rating agencies. Meanwhile, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce continued to push for a sustainable form of road funding, saying while the business community appreciates the House budget for roads, it is not enough.

“We need to work through those provisions before we could then say we see a pathway to concurrence,” he said. “It’s not a simple yes or no.”



BART BOATWRIGHT/STAFF/
Gov. Nikki Haley cautions against House changes in the roads bill.

Title: **Haley to feds: Stop plutonium shipments**
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD Associated Press
 Size: 19.68 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



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The Republican governor's demand is part of a long-running dispute with the federal government over where the materials should be stored. Last month, South Carolina sued the Energy Department, saying it had failed to remove plutonium from the state as promised.

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 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



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The bill moves on to the House. If ultimately passed and signed by the governor, it could become the first measure of its kind in the country. The chief supporter of the bill said the goal is to keep South Carolina safe from the kinds of attacks carried out this week in Belgium and recently in California and Paris.

"We can make South Carolina out of the 50 states the most unwelcome state for refugees," said state Sen. Kevin Bryant, a Republican from Anderson.

Opponents of the bill said it didn't fit South Carolina's oft mentioned Christian values, such as loving one's neighbors.

The National Conference of State Legislatures said South Carolina and New York are the only

states that have proposed measures to register refugees.

"This may be the first time the Legislature in South Carolina and the Legislature in the state of New York are on the same page," said Bryant, adding New York already has suffered from terrorist attacks.

South Carolina is in the middle of the South's so-called Bible belt, with Republicans controlling both chambers in the Legislature and the governor's office. The state drew international attention last June when nine African-Americans were shot to death at a church in Charleston. Authorities arrested a white man they say was motivated by racial hatred in the killings. He is awaiting trial.

The bill requires refugees resettled by the federal government into South Carolina to register with its Department of Social Services. That agency would share the information with state police, who would be asked under the measure to

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He said he doubts any court would hold an organization that helps refugees responsible for a criminal act.

"I think there is a higher likelihood of being struck by lightning while drowning," said Hutto, a Democrat from Orangeburg.

Gov. Nikki Haley's office didn't immediately comment on the bill Wednesday.

Title: **S.C. Senate OKs bill to set up re fugee registry**
 Author: BY JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press
 Size: 42.47 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



S.C. Senate OKs bill to set up refugee registry

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

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Orangeburg.

Gov. Nikki Haley’s office didn’t immediately comment on the bill Wednesday. But Haley spoke last year with the FBI about her concerns with resettling Syrian refugees in South Carolina, saying her first and primary duty as governor is to protect the safety of residents.

Nearly 850 refugees from a number of countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East have come to South Carolina since 2010, with 87 arriving since last summer.

Bryant said he was proud most of his fellow senators, adding they decided to protect South Carolina.

“We’ve got to choose our own citizens over those that are not citizens of this country,” Bryant said.

What do you think?

Comment on this story at www.aikenstandard.com, write to Opinions, *Aiken Standard*, Box 456, Aiken, S.C. 29802 or send an email to editorial@aikenstandard.com.

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Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson





Title: **Haley pushing House to accept road plan**

Author:

Size: 8.21 square inch

Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Haley pushing House to accept road plan

COLUMBIA (AP) — Gov. Nikki Haley is pressuring House GOP leaders to agree to designate \$400 million annually from state tax collections for roadwork, even while she supports their argument that South Carolina’s crumbling roads need a better

long-term solution.

Haley said Wednesday if the House passes the Senate’s road-funding proposal, she’ll work with legislative leaders to find an acceptable “direct funding stream” for roads.

The Senate has refused to pass any gas tax increase.

House Assistant Majority Leader Gary Simrill repeated that it’s folly to promise to

perpetually spend \$400 million from state coffers. The House’s budget plan includes roughly \$400 million for roadwork, but leaders said that’s a one-year solution.

Haley agrees automatic funding is the best option. However, she likes the Department of Transportation leadership changes in the Senate’s plan.

Title: **Haley: No more plutonium**
 Author: BY DERREK ASBERRY dasberry@postandcourier.com
 Size: 55.8 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Haley: No more plutonium

Gov. says S.C. will not be nuclear dumping ground

BY DERREK ASBERRY

dasberry@postandcourier.com

Fearing that her state is becoming a "permanent nuclear dumping ground," Gov. Nikki Haley told the federal government Wednesday to either stop Japanese shipments of plutonium from going to the Savannah River Site or reroute the plutonium so that it doesn't enter South

Carolina.

Reports surfaced earlier this week that ships carrying 331 kilograms of weapons-grade plutonium from Japan will soon dock at the Charleston Naval Weapons Station before the plutonium is sent about 120 miles to SRS near Aiken.

The state's acceptance of the material is the latest in a series of recent and upcoming shipments to SRS where the plutonium will be stored with no foreseeable pathway out of the state.

"It is imperative to the safety of our

Please see **HALEY**, Page 9A

HALEY

CONTINUED from 1A

citizens and our environment that South Carolina not allow this to happen," Haley wrote in a letter to U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.

She went on to remind Moniz that South Carolina has already sued him and others for missing a deadline at the SRS Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility.

The facility is part of the nation's MOX program, which is designed to meet an agreement with Russia by converting 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel. The Japanese plutonium does not fall under the MOX program.

Per a 2003 agreement signed by the state and Department of Energy, either 1 ton of the MOX plutonium was supposed to be processed through the facility, or removed from the state by Jan. 1, 2016. Neither happened, which is why, according to the agreement, DOE was supposed to begin

paying South Carolina \$1 million a day. After a month of waiting, the state filed suit on Feb. 9. DOE has yet to pay or respond to the suit.

"I was very troubled to learn that now in the midst of this lawsuit and before DOE has even filed a response, DOE is in the process of shipping upwards of 331 kilograms of defense usable plutonium from Japan to SRS," Haley said.

Acceptance of the plutonium was outlined in President Barack Obama's fiscal 2017 budget proposal. The proposal calls for the "removal of all HEU (highly-enriched uranium) and plutonium from Japan's Fast Critical Assembly" before the start of the Nuclear Security Summit on March 31.

The state's receipt of foreign nuclear materials isn't expected to stop anytime soon. A December 2014 presenta-

tion on the U.S. Global Threat Reduction Initiative, which launched in 2004, outlined

plans to remove an additional 1,431 kilograms of plutonium and uranium from foreign countries by 2022, with expectations for SRS to see most, if not all, of the material at some point.

"I think there's definitely a trend we're seeing where SRS is receiving foreign materials for economic reasons," said Tom Clements, the director of watchdog group SRS Watch. "Unfortunately, there's really no exit out of South Carolina, which makes it an environmental issue."

While Clements and other watchdogs across the state have denounced SRS being used for additional storage, pro-nuclear groups near the site have lauded its capabilities.

Mike Johnson, the executive director of Aiken-based Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, said bringing these materials to SRS is the right move because it's the safest place for them. However, the federal government should continue seeking dis-

posal options, Johnson said.

"It's important for the Department of Energy to commit to a pathway out of South Carolina," he said.

Reach **Derrek Asberry** at 843-937-5517. Follow him on Twitter @DerrekAsberry.

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Haley



Moniz