



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais
Superintendent

1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

June 10, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing to express my views on two transportation provisos addressing school buses, and respectfully ask for your veto of both:

- 1) **1.68.** (SDE: Lee County Bus Shop) From the funds appropriated in program XB, Bus Shops, in the current fiscal year, the department must fund the Lee County School District Bus Shop and the Kershaw County School District Bus Shop at the same level as they were funded in the previous fiscal year.

This proviso prevents the Department from exercising much-needed flexibility to operate our statewide bus repair and maintenance facilities in a cost-effective manner. I respectfully ask for your veto and note that we have established maintenance facilities throughout the state taking account the size and scope of district operations, while ensuring fairness to all communities.

- 2) **1.93.** (SDE: Prohibit Air Conditioned Bus Purchases) For the current fiscal year, the Department of Education shall be prohibited from initiating any new request for proposal to purchase air conditioned school buses unless the buses are substantially used to transport special needs children.

I respectfully ask that this proviso be vetoed. The state's bus specifications committee is best suited to determine the specifications of buses the Department purchases, especially with the legal requirement for school districts to provide climate controlled environments to some students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mick Zais".

Mick Zais, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education