

From: Mark Harmon <mark.c.harmon@gmail.com>
To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
Date: 9/6/2013 9:45:37 AM
Subject: Re: Senator Thurmond - Budget Inquiry

Do you think Christian has time for lunch on Monday? I'm open if y'all are!

On Sep 5, 2013, at 7:12 PM, "Veldran, Katherine" <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

From: Paul Thurmond [<mailto:PTthurmond@tktylawfirm.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2013 02:51 PM
To: Veldran, Katherine
Subject: RE: Senator Thurmond - Budget Inquiry

Always have time for yall. Just let me know a couple of times that might work. Appreciate the insight. Family is great. Hope you are ready for a good weekend. PT

Paul R. Thurmond

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From: Veldran, Katherine [<mailto:KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>]
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2013 2:39 PM
To: Paul Thurmond
Subject: FW: Senator Thurmond - Budget Inquiry

Senator,

I hope this email finds you doing well!

I wanted to share with you the email below from Christian regarding your budget inquiry.

Do you have time next week for a follow up call? Let me know what time works for you.

Hope you and your family have a great weekend!

Thank you,
Katherine
Katherine F. Veldran
Legislative Liaison | Office of Governor Nikki Haley
O: 803-734-5124 | C: 803-767-7583
KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov

From: Soura, Christian
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 12:22 PM
To: Pitts, Ted
Cc: Shwedo, Kevin A; Veldran, Katherine
Subject: RE: Senator Thurmond - Budget Inquiry

Yeah, Tony Keck showed me his copy of this letter last night.

I sympathize with what Sen. Thurmond is trying to accomplish, but suspect that the January FOIA he has described would not be too illuminating. When legislators add projects to the budget, its almost never prior to January. We sent budget instructions and templates to all agencies yesterday for FY 2014-15. Their responses are due by October 1st and will be immediately posted online at budget.sc.gov. In my experience here so far, legislators have not typically made any real effort to insert items at this stage.

After October 1st, agencies (and therefore any legislators prospectively working through them) have very little ability to influence the Executive Budget. We meet with many of them to discuss their submissions during October, but theyre not adding additional requests at that pointwere talking through what theyve already filed. The earmarks are almost entirely inserted in either the Ways and Means or the Finance Committee (or during the Houses 2nd pass at the budget just before it goes to conference). This means that many of the projects that Sen. Thurmond would like to learn more about wont materialize until May. I would also point out that theres little (and often no) paper trail for many of those legislative additions. To give a couple of recent examples:

1. In FY 2012-13, there was a \$200,000 (as I recall havent looked it up) earmark at the Technical College System for SC Skills USA. When I called leadership and finance folks over there during veto preparation, they were unaware of the earmark and had never heard of it completely out of the loop.
2. In FY 2013-14, there was an earmark nominally for the Budget and Control Board for a security lighting project that BCB hadnt requested they had no paperwork on it.

Obviously there are others. Long story short, I sympathize with what hes trying to achieve with this request, but I suspect that an early January FOIA would produce little more than the agencys budget request itself, which will have been online for 3 months at that point. The most egregious earmarks happen in late spring, with no paperwork.

Now on the other hand, if he were to ask agencies to produce any letters of instruction or other comparable documents that are intended to direct agencies as to how they should use funds AFTER the Appropriations Act passes, I suspect that would produce some interesting results. Thats something he could do with a lookback, too.

CLS
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