

Title: **Haley shouldn't veto relief bill for farmers**
 Author: By The Herald Editorial Board
 Size: 27.43 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



OUR VIEW

Haley shouldn't veto relief bill for farmers

By The Herald Editorial Board

Gov. Nikki Haley doesn't object when the state offers special tax incentives to attract new business and industry to the state. So it's hard to understand why she wants to veto state efforts to lend a helping hand to farmers after they suffered \$330 million in losses because of a massive flood.

South Carolina farmers say 2015 ranks among the worst years ever for them. The S.C. Department of Agriculture reported that the state's entire cotton, soybean and peanut crops were destroyed by an October flood that covered much of the state. Then, with the wet weather continuing into 2016, many farmers were unable to plant a full crop in the spring because of standing water.

The state's farmers have access to federal crop insurance and emergency low-interest loans, but that aid does not come close to covering their entire losses. Farmers hit by last year's flood had hoped the state also would

provide some relief.

This month, the General Assembly passed a bill to give \$40 million to farmers to help them recover. Farmers in disaster-declared counties could request grants of up to \$100,000 to cover up to 20 percent of their 2015 crop losses.

Haley, who argues that farmers should be treated no differently from other small business owners, has threatened to veto the bill. But the comparison is fundamentally unfair: farmers aren't ordinary small businessmen.

Unlike the average business owner, farmers are at the mercy of the weather year in and year out. A typical small business might make an insurance claim now and then, but farmers could be hit by several years of crop-destroying weather in a row.

We reward farmers for enduring the uncertainties of trying to plant and harvest a crop because agriculture is regarded as a necessity to the nation's

well being. And it also is a mainstay of South Carolina's economy.

Failing to help sustain the state's agriculture industry could mean not only that many farmers could go out of business but also that many potential young farmers will be discouraged from undertaking the risks of farming in the first place. That would be bad news for the poorer rural parts of the state where farming remains a vital part of the local economy.

The state's farm relief bill passed by a vote of 85-2 in the House and 33-3 in the Senate. Those majorities are well over the two-thirds needed to override a veto by Haley, and we hope lawmakers exercise that prerogative if necessary.

The state routinely provides an array of perks and privileges to prospective businesses. We should be just as attentive to the needs of the agriculture industry that already contributes substantially to the state's economy.



Title: CCU ans launch petition to Gov. Haley regarding stadium project
Author: BY RYAN YOUNG ryoung@thesunnews.com
Size: 93.0 column inches
Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



CCU FOOTBALL

CCU fans launch petition to Gov. Haley regarding stadium project

CCU has tried several times for state approval for its football stadium expansion

Petition launched by CoastalFans.com asks Gov. Nikki Haley to intervene

Chairman of the board of trustees calls on fan base to pitch in financially

BY RYAN YOUNG
ryoung@thesunnews.com

CONWAY
While Coastal Carolina University leaders are working to craft a funding plan for the school's football stadium expansion project that will satisfy the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE), the Chanticleers' fan base is trying to do its part as well.

Frustrated that the CHE continues to withhold phase

two state approval for the project, most recently denying it with a 9-4 vote last week in Columbia, the website CoastalFans.com has launched a petition to Gov. Nikki Haley that has already garnered more than 1,300 signatures.

"We, the undersigned, express our support of Coastal Carolina University's request for expansion of

Brooks Stadium and ask that Governor Nikki Haley intercede on behalf of the University," the petition states.

Randy Akers, the owner and administrator of CoastalFans.com, posted the petition on Change.org at 9:45 Wednesday night and said it garnered 100 signatures in the first hour while continuing to grow at a strong pace.

"This all started, I was

approached by two alums that had been following the process and like many of us had been fed up that the CHE has declined to approve the expansion of Brooks Stadium," Akers said. "They asked that with the social media following that Coast-

SEE PETITION, 6B

PETITION FROM PAGE 1B

alFans has, would I spearhead this? So far the response has been great."

Coastal Carolina has brought its stadium proposal before the CHE four times since February and recently lowered the budget on the project from \$38 million to \$29.9 million before the meeting last Thursday.

The planned expansion of the 9,214-seat stadium to around 19,000 seats is part of the Chants' move to the Sun Belt Conference and to the NCAA's Football Bowl

Subdivision, as FBS schools are required to average 15,000 in attendance per game.

The Chants are set to debut in the Sun Belt in 2017 after playing this next season as an FCS independent.

In regard to paying off the bonds that would fund the project, the university has said \$2 million will come from the Chanticleer Athletic Foundation (CAF) upon completion of construction and \$5 million can be applied from renovation reserve funds, while the CAF

will then contribute \$500,000 per year over the life of the bonds with an additional pledge of \$200,000 per year from athletic department revenue.

The CHE, in turn, made it clear that it needed to see more upfront private money involved before it would give its approval.

So while the CAF works to solicit donations, the fan base is trying to bring more attention to the cause. So far, Akers is encouraged by the response of more than 1,100 online signatures.

"That to me says that there is definitely a fan base that is passionate about Coastal Carolina football [and] Coastal Carolina University in general," he said. "The CHE has said their concern is lack of funds, a.k.a. private funds. Coastal Carolina may not have a Phil Knight (the co-founder of Nike and contributor to the University of Oregon) waiting in the wings to come in and drop \$100 million on us, but what we do have is a lot of Coastal fans who, if they can't give much, they're

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going to give what they can.”

Meanwhile, Wyatt Henderson, the chairman of the university's board of trustees, has addressed the fan base as well in a letter that was copied to the CoastalFans.com message board.

“While I am not going to express to you my personal opinion about the politics surrounding this project, I do think it is important that we, as a University, move forward with a determined resolve that we will get this done,” Henderson wrote. “Take my word for it; we will get this done!”

The CHE was restructured in the wake of South Carolina State University's financial debacle last year, and new chairman Tim Hofferth has stated that the commission has a refocused approach to vetting capital projects – as Coastal Carolina has experienced.

That, in turn, has left many in and around the

university frustrated and confused by what the CHE needs to see to approve the project.

“Coastal is not asking for any public funds. We came in at \$38 million with \$2 million up front and were told that was not good enough,” Akers said. “We slashed the budget by 21 percent still with that \$2 million up front and were told that doesn't pass the smell test. We've seen that South Carolina and Clemson have gotten projects approved for \$50 million and that to me does not pass the smell test. We've come in with good faith and slashed the budget and been told that does not work, but we've not been told anything beyond that.

“This petition is really about asking Gov. Nikki Haley to step in and, if not instruct the CHE to approve

the project, at the very least give the administration at

Coastal Carolina University a clear, concise and written set of guidelines on how to proceed.”

Henderson, meanwhile, was not available for further comment until Friday morning, a university contact said.

But his letter called on supporters of the university to come together and help raise \$5 million toward the project while directing potential donors to reach out to the CAF.

“Being a young University only 23 years old, we do not have the luxury of some of the bigger schools that have the billion dollar endowments or thousands and thousands of alumni waiting in line to throw money at anything we want to build before there is even a design,” Henderson continued. “As such, we have always bonded out the necessary funds to construct a project, and then sold naming rights to the project after construc-

tion. This model has always worked and we have a very strong track record in acquiring the funds on the ‘back end.’

“However, CHE made it loud and clear at our last presentation that until we can prove that we have the necessary private funding, we will continue to struggle in convincing a majority of Commissioners to vote for our project. That's where you, the stakeholders in CCU need to get involved. What would it take to raise \$5 million for this cause? ... If each of us could commit to some amount over the next ten years, no doubt we could quickly raise \$5 million. ...

“I would ask that you join my wife Stacy and me and commit to naming ‘something’ at the new stadium at a donation of \$25,000, \$50,000 or more.”

Ryan Young: 843-626-0318, @RyanYoungTSN

“

THAT TO ME SAYS THAT THERE IS DEFINITELY A FAN BASE THAT IS PASSIONATE ABOUT COASTAL CAROLINA FOOTBALL [AND] COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY IN GENERAL. ... COASTAL CAROLINA MAY NOT HAVE A PHIL KNIGHT WAITING IN THE WINGS TO COME IN AND DROP \$100 MILLION ON US, BUT WHAT WE DO HAVE IS A LOT OF COASTAL FANS WHO, IF THEY CAN'T GIVE MUCH, THEY'RE GOING TO GIVE WHAT THEY CAN.

Randy Akers, owner/administrator of CoastalFans.com

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Courtesy - Coastal Carolina Athletic Department

A rendering of how Coastal Carolina's Brooks Stadium would look following plans to renovate the structure.



Title: **Political backlash aimed at N.C. inspires HB2 ans**
 Author: BY BRISTOW MARCHANT AND ANNA DOUGLAS bmarchant@heraldonline.com, adouglas@mcclatchydc.com
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TRANSGENDER BATHROOM ACCESS

Political backlash aimed at N.C. inspires HB2 fans

Rock Hill, SC, pastor asks for local ordinance barring transgender bathroom access

Part of national trend in reaction to N.C. law, including S.C. copycat

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT AND ANNA DOUGLAS

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ROCK HILL

On the same day that the state of North Carolina and the U.S. Justice Department filed dueling lawsuits over the state's contro-



Deese

versial "bathroom law," one South Carolina pastor wants to go further. Joey Deese told Rock Hill City Council on Monday that the city needs to take a "biblical stand" on the issue drawing national attention, and pass an ordinance that would prohibit anyone from using a public restroom that does not correspond to their biolog-

ical sex.

The pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church said he plans to make the same request of York County Council, and is circulating an online petition to get both bodies to pass an ordinance "to protect our women and children" in restrooms and locker rooms.

He doesn't want this to be an idle protest.

"Our goal is to get an ordinance passed," Deese said. "But our main goal is to make sure everybody knows what's going on."

Despite the piling on of HB2 political backlash - aimed at North Carolina generally, as well

as the city of Charlotte for kick-starting the fight with its own non-discrimination policy - some supporters of the law are not deterred from wanting a similar measure enacted in their own cities.

The turmoil over HB2 may be inspiring proponents in some corners to advocate harder for what they describe as safety and privacy protections in public restrooms.

In South Carolina, Republican Sen. Lee Bright introduced his own version of the law that would prohibit schools or government buildings from allowing transgender people from using

SEE HB2, 6A

FROM PAGE 1A

HB2

the bathroom of their choice, and would potentially overturn several city and county non-discrimination ordinances that protect sexual orientation and gender identity. That measure ultimately failed to gather enough support to move through the Legislature after the backlash

against North Carolina's law.

But Deese's preferred ordinance would go further in criminalizing bathroom access even at private businesses. He cited businesses within Rock Hill's city limits like Starbucks, Target and Planet Fitness that have a policy

of allowing transgender individuals to use the restroom or locker room of their choice.

Last year, a Michigan woman filed suit against Planet Fitness after the gym allowed a transgender woman to use the women's locker room with her. A judge later threw

out the complaint.

"As a pastor, I believe it's Biblically wrong," said Deese, who was also active in opposing the Charlotte city ordinance that led to the North Carolina Legislature's HB2 vote. "A young girl can go into the Planet Fitness locker room, and a guy can go in and sit on the bench, and

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there's nothing you can do about it."

He wants to see an ordinance passed modeled on one introduced in Oxford, Ala., in April. The small town, which hosts a Target, would have made it a misdemeanor for a transgender person to use a restroom that did not correspond with the sex on their birth certificate. Oxford City Council later voted down the measure out of concern it violated the same federal laws North Carolina now stands accused of violating.

Rock Hill City Council

had no reaction to Deese's proposal Monday, and Mayor Doug Echols later declined to comment on the idea. York County Councilman Britt Blackwell said he's told Deese the ordinance is "not necessary" in South Carolina, echoing comments from S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley.

The latest proposal comes as no surprise to Ellen Green, co-founder of Affirmation of York County, a faith-based support group for the LGBT community and their families and friends.

"People seem to want to address this out of fear.

They haven't taken the research or read about the issue," she said. "It seems like transgender issues now are in the same place gays and lesbians were 15 or 20 years ago."

But Green hopes the focus on the issue now will lead to conversations that will lead to greater awareness of the challenges faced by transgender people, who she fears have been "left behind" while gays and lesbians have gained more acceptance in recent years.

Trans people have told her "for years they haven't used a restroom," Green

said. "They just hold it because of the fear of assault or harassment."

Affirmation recently hosted a Trans 101 class in response to the HB2 controversy to spread information about the community. It went so well they're planning a Trans 102 course later this year.

"In a lot of ways, our children's needs have been met," Green said. "And the transgender seem like the next group that needs help."

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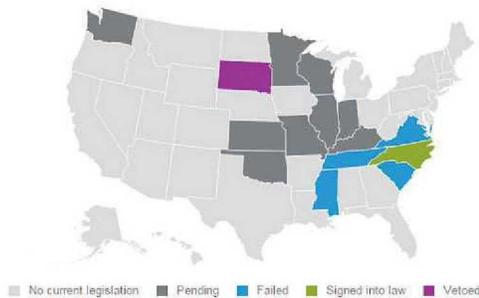


CHUCK LIDDY AP

Lee Churchill, of Raleigh, shows her support of HB2 during a rally in Raleigh, N.C., on April 25. Some supporters of the law are not deterred from wanting a similar measure enacted in S.C. cities.

Status of "Bathroom Bill" Legislation

Legislation status of states restricting transgender bathroom use



Sources: National Conference of State Legislatures | Graphiq Analysis. As of May, 4, 2016

Title: **PLUMBINGPARTS COMPANY CREATING 77 JOBS IN CHEROKEE CO.**
 Author: GAFFNEY
 Size: 8.99 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



PLUMBING PARTS COMPANY CREATING 77 JOBS IN CHEROKEE CO.

GAFFNEY

A Missouri company that makes plumbing fixtures will create 77 new jobs in Cherokee County.

Gov. Nikki Haley's office said Sioux Chief Manufacturing is moving into a closed plant just east of Chesnee in Spartanburg County.

Sioux Manufacturing will move its corporate headquarters and its engineering, manufacturing and warehouse distribution operations to the site.

Jim Cook with the Cherokee County Development Board says the company already has 100 employees and will add 77 more in the expansion.

The company expects to be fully staffed in the next three months.

Chesnee Mayor Max Cash said the town will benefit even though the plant is located just outside the municipal limits and is in Cherokee County.

The company makes plumbing, heating and water quality products for residential, industrial and commercial businesses.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **Tick-tock goes Legislature's clock**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 36.58 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015


STATE GOVERNMENT

Tick-tock goes Legislature's clock

With 3 weeks left in session, many major issues remain unresolved

More money for roads, rural schools likely to come as part of state budget

Lawmakers have sent about 50 proposals to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk

BY CASSIE COPE
ccope@thestate.com

With three weeks left in its regular session, the S.C. Legislature has many issues unresolved.

Legislators are notorious for waiting until the session's last minute to address major issues, and this year is no different.

For example, a plan to repair the state's roads — the pot holes, failing

bridges and congested highways — has not been sent to the governor. The most recent bonding plan, which is expected to pay for \$4 billion of the roughly \$40 billion in road projects needed, is in a House subcommittee, waiting for representatives to return to Columbia this week after an unpaid furlough.

Meanwhile, several House proposals to do more for the state's poor, rural schools — an issue the S.C. Supreme Court says the Legislature must

address — are advancing in the Senate but have not yet become law. The Senate has passed three, sending two back to the House to consider changes senators want to make, and is considering three more.

Both the school and road repair proposals likely will pair with the roughly \$7.5 billion spending plan for the state's fiscal year that starts July 1. The House and Senate have each passed their own budgets and must work out their differences in the remaining weeks.

So what has the General Assembly sent to the governor's desk in the first five months of its six-month session?

About 50 proposals, ranging from requiring stamps on cigarettes to show S.C. taxes have been paid, to a \$40 million

proposal to offer grants to S.C. farmers who lost crops during last year's historic flooding.

Gov. Nikki Haley has until Tuesday to veto the farm aid proposal, which she has said she will do, arguing it is unfair to help one business sector in South Carolina and not all.

Neither farmers nor the S.C. Small Business of Commerce are buying that argument.

"The governor should not use small businesses as an excuse not to help our farmers recover from last year's floods," said Frank Knapp Jr., president of the Small Business Chamber. "Our small businesses want our farmers, who contribute to the economic health of our state, to recover. They don't begrudge farmers from receiving funds

available to them just because other small businesses don't have the opportunity."

Other proposals the Legislature has sent to the governor include:

- Repealing regulations relating to horse and kangaroo meat. Those regulations were unnecessary, according to the state's health agency, because existing regulations already covered them.

- Allowing the state's health agency to offer the cervical cancer vaccine to eligible adolescents.

- Establishing committees to review domestic violence fatalities in each of the state's judicial districts to analyze domestic violence-related deaths

- Requiring coal ash created by power plants to be disposed of in a landfills that meet strict standards.

Title: **Advocates push for money for beaches**
 Author: BY STEPHEN FASTENAU sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com
 Size: 56.26 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015


HUNTING ISLAND

Advocates push for money for beaches

SC senators cut beach renourishment funding from \$40 million to \$20 million

State park department seeking two groins and more than 600,000 cubic yards of sand

Friends of Hunting Island asking people to write senators, representatives

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU
sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com

Hunting Island supporters are rallying to ensure millions of dollars to restore the island's beaches remain in the state budget.

Earlier this month, South Carolina senators allotted just \$20 million for the state's beach renourishment projects for the fiscal year that begins July 1. That's half of the \$40 million that Gov. Nikki Haley and the S.C. House of Representatives proposed spending.

The money would benefit a list of state beaches including Hunting Island, home to one of the state's most popular parks that is grappling with aggressive erosion that takes away about 5 to 30 feet of beach per year.

The funds are needed to help restore public areas on the island's north and south beaches, shore up the campground area and protect Hunting Island's historic lighthouse, said Friends of Hunting Island president Denise Parsick. The storm and high tides this past October eroded as much of the barrier island's beaches as nor-

mally occurs in a year, she said.

"If we don't renourish our beaches, people will go to other beaches," Parsick said. "It's only a hop, skip and a jump to North Carolina, Florida and Georgia."

Parsick is enlisting the 900 members of Friends of Hunting Island to write legislators asking for the \$40 million. And the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce has started an online petition.

The S.C. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department wants to pump more than 600,000 cubic yards of sand onto Hunting Island's beaches and add two groins to the six installed in 2008. The project would be done at the same time as a similar project on nearby Edisto Island.

A public hearing on the permit request will be held at Beaufort City Hall at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, said coastal lawmakers will lobby members of a joint committee of House and Senate members who will

write the final version of the budget. The committee's work must be completed before July 1 when the state's new fiscal year begins.

The case for beach renourishment can be made objectively by showing how important beaches are to state revenue, Davis said.

"Beach renourishment obviously plays a large part of that," Davis said Friday. "You can make the case in terms of dollars and cents."

Since 1969, eight major renourishment projects have been conducted to maintain Hunting Island's beaches, totaling about \$15 million.

The park's most recent renourishment project was installing six groins in 2008. More groins were approved at the time, but the money wasn't available, Parks, Recreation and Tourism director Duane Parrish said Friday.

Renourishment was due and being planned for the park before the October storm accelerated the urgency, Parrish said.

Research shows the groins are working, he

said, pointing to his visit to the park in April.

"You can walk out there and tell," Parrish said. "There is a lot more sand out there where the groins are than where the groins were not."

Parsick would like to see a recurring fee to help pay for future projects so that the beaches aren't so dependent on the state budget. She thinks an extra dollar per car visiting the park would work.

Hunting Island's 1.08 million visitors this past fiscal year ranked second only to Myrtle Beach State Park, which drew almost 1.5 million, state parks spokeswoman Dawn Dawson-House said. The next most visited park was Huntington Beach in Murrells Inlet, which drew half as many visitors as Hunting Island.

"We're not talking about a beach just serving locals," said Robb Wells, tourism director for the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce. "We're talking about a beach that serves the state. ... That is our battle cry."

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Hunting Island is grappling with erosion that gouges 5 to 30 feet of beach each year.

Title: **N.C. bathroom law a 'double-edged sword' for South Carolina**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE The (Columbia)State
 Size: 155.93 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688


POLITICS

N.C. bathroom law a 'double-edged sword' for South Carolina

Businesses could look more favorably on state, S.C. Chamber head says

But border counties could be hurt, Lancaster County leader says

S.C. often competes with bordering states for jobs

BY CASSIE COPE

The (Columbia) State

South Carolina could benefit from the fallout from North Carolina's controversial bathroom law, S.C. business leaders say.

Companies opposed to discriminatory laws could look more favorably on South Carolina, leaders say.

However, the impact of the proposal is a "double-edged sword," said Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis.

That is because the S.C. border counties that align with Charlotte for economic development could be hurt by businesses pulling out or canceling their expansion plans in the Queen City, he said.

'PUTS SOUTH CAROLINA IN A GOOD PLACE'

Industries that are looking to expand in the United States are looking at the N.C. law - a ban on people using public bathrooms other than for the sex designated on their birth certificates - to see

where a state stands, said S.C. Chamber of Commerce President Ted Pitts.

"That only puts South Carolina in a good place going forward on economic development projects," said Pitts, a former chief of staff to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley.

The S.C. Chamber and Republican Haley both opposed a similar S.C. proposal.

Final efforts to pass that bathroom ban, sponsored by state Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, failed earlier this month.

"This is just not something that's a problem," Pitts said, adding, "It's a proposal that would be unenforceable."

The backlash in North Carolina and, earlier, against Georgia - where legislators passed a religious freedom proposal, criticized by some as anti-gay, subsequently vetoed - made it clear that a similar proposal would have an impact on S.C. jobs, Pitts said.

South Carolina is at the top of the list for economic development projects, Pitts said.

But, if a proposal like Bright's were adopted, it would take South Carolina out of that position, he added.

'SOUTH CAROLINA HAS BEEN EATING NORTH CAROLINA'S LUNCH'

The state Commerce Department would not discuss whether there has been a spike in economic development interest in South Carolina since the North Carolina controversy.

"The S.C. Department of Commerce neither comments nor issues data on projects that we may or may not be actively working," said spokeswoman Adrienne Fairwell.

But South Carolina regularly competes with North Carolina and Georgia for new jobs.

Last year, Volvo Cars

SEE BATHROOM, 8A

“

SOUTH CAROLINA HAS BEEN EATING NORTH CAROLINA'S LUNCH AS FAR AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS CONCERNED FOR YEARS.

State Sen. Greg Gregory, R-Lancaster

“

THIS IS JUST NOT SOMETHING THAT'S A PROBLEM. IT'S A PROPOSAL THAT WOULD BE UNENFORCEABLE.

South Carolina Chamber

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of Commerce President Ted Pitts, about a South Carolina measure similar to North Carolina's so-called bathroom law

Businesses halting plans in North Carolina

In the aftermath of North Carolina passage of a bathroom ban, several companies have dropped their expansion plans for that state. Some S.C. business leaders say the Palmetto State could benefit from the fallout. FROM PAGE 3A

BATHROOM

decided to build an auto plant in Berkeley County after narrowing its selection to South Carolina and Georgia.

South Carolina also has competed with its northern border state.

"South Carolina has been eating North Carolina's lunch as far as economic development is concerned for years," said state Sen. Greg Gregory, R-Lancaster.

North Carolina-based companies that have

DEUTSCHE BANK

The German-based bank froze plans to create 250 jobs in Cary, N.C. "We're proud of our operations and employees in Cary and regret that as a result of this legislation we are unwilling to include North Carolina in our U.S. expansion plans for now," John Cryan, co-chief executive of Deutsche Bank, said in a statement.

"We very much hope that we can revisit our plans to grow this location in the near future."

PAYPAL

The financial services company canceled plans to open a global operations center, employing more than 400, in Charlotte. "While we will seek an alternative location for our operations center, we remain committed to working with the LGBT community in North Carolina to overturn this discriminatory legislation, alongside all those who are committed to equality," PayPal CEO Dan Schulman said in a statement.

RED VENTURES

The marketing and sales company, which has a South Carolina presence, has committed to expanding its Charlotte employment by 500 in 2016, CEO Ric Elias said in a letter to N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory. However, Elias said he has been "forced to seriously reconsider adding more jobs in a state that tolerates discrimination and allows political interests to interfere with doing what is right for all citizens."

opened across the border in South Carolina include Red Ventures, a marketing and sales company that expanded its S.C. head-

quarters in Indian Land in November.

Last month, Lash Group, a patient support services company, held a ribbon cutting for its new Fort Mill headquarters, which moved from Charlotte.

'BUT IT COULD HURT US'

Since Lancaster County

borders North Carolina, Willis, the county administrator, said fallout from the controversy could go either way.

"It could help us, but it could hurt us," Willis said.

None of the companies that Lancaster County currently is working with have said they are interested in Lancaster because they are upset with North Carolina's new bathroom law, Willis said.

But, if a company is not going to consider the

Charlotte region because of the bathroom law, that means Lancaster also might not be considered.

"We'll never know how much it may hurt us," Willis said.

“

WE'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH IT MAY HURT US.

Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis

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TRAVIS LONG tlong@newsobserver.com

Dozens of demonstrators, including Grayson Haver Currin and Tina Haver Currin, sound horns outside the North Carolina Museum of History as Gov. Pat McCrory spoke inside.



EVAN VUCCI AP

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ETHAN HYMAN ehyman@newsobserver.com

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory's administration sued the federal government in the fight over the state law. The Department of Justice, led by Attorney General Loretta Lynch, below, countersued.



ROBERT WILLETT rwillett@newsobserver.com

John Chase, center, follows the chants of North Carolina NAACP President the Rev. William Barber during an April 25 rally in opposition of House Bill 2 in Raleigh, N.C. Companies opposed to discriminatory laws could look more favorably on South Carolina now, economic development leaders say.

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 Author: BY STEPHEN FASTENAU The (Beaufort) Gazette
 Size: 53.16 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



SOUTH CAROLINA

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Friends of Hunting Island asking people to write senators, representatives

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU

The (Beaufort) Gazette

Hunting Island supporters are rallying to ensure millions of dollars to restore the island's beaches remain in the state budget.

Earlier this month, South Carolina senators allotted just \$20 million for the state's beach renourishment projects for the fiscal year that begins July 1. That's half of the \$40 million that Gov.

Nikki Haley and the S.C. House of Representatives proposed spending.

Advocates for Hunting Island are working to get money restored to the state budget so beach renourishment work can be done.

The money would benefit a list of state beaches including Hunting Island, home to one of the state's most popular parks that is

grappling with aggressive erosion that takes away about 5 to 30 feet of beach per year.

The funds are needed to help restore public areas on the island's north and south beaches, shore up the campground area and protect Hunting Island's historic lighthouse, said Friends of Hunting Island president Denise Parsick. The storm and high tides

this past October eroded as much of the barrier island's beaches as normally occurs in a year, she said.

"If we don't renourish our beaches, people will go to other beaches," Parsick said. "It's only a hop, skip and a jump to North Carolina, Florida

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PRESERVATION

and Georgia."

Parsick is enlisting the 900 members of Friends of Hunting Island to write legislators asking for the \$40 million. And the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce has started an online petition.

The S.C. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department wants to pump more than 600,000 cubic yards of sand onto Hunting Island's beaches and add

two groins to the six installed in 2008. The project would be done at the same time as a similar project on nearby Edisto Island.

A public hearing on the permit request will be held at Beaufort City Hall at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, said coastal lawmakers will lobby members of a joint committee of House and Sen-

ate members who will write the final version of the budget. The committee's work must be completed before July 1 when the state's new fiscal year begins.

The case for beach renourishment can be made objectively by showing how important beaches are to state revenue, Davis said.

"Beach renourishment obviously plays a large

part of that," Davis said Friday. "You can make the case in terms of dollars and cents."

Since 1969, eight major renourishment projects have been conducted to maintain Hunting Island's beaches, totaling about \$15 million.

The park's most recent renourishment project was installing six groins in 2008. More groins were

Title: **Hunting Island seeks millions for beach preservation**
 Author: BY STEPHEN FASTENAU The (Beaufort) Gazette
 Size: 53.16 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688

approved at the time, but the money wasn't available, Parks, Recreation and Tourism director Duane Parrish said Friday.

Renourishment was due and being planned for the park before the October storm accelerated the urgency, Parrish said.

"You can walk out there and tell," Parrish said. "There is a lot more sand out there where the groins

are than where the groins were not."

Parsick would like to see a recurring fee to help pay for future projects so that the beaches aren't so dependent on the state budget. She thinks an extra dollar per car visiting the park would work.

Hunting Island's 1.08 million visitors this past fiscal year ranked second only to Myrtle Beach State Park, which drew almost

1.5 million, state parks spokeswoman Dawn Dawson-House said. The next most visited park was Huntington Beach in Murrells Inlet, which drew half as many visitors as Hunting Island.

"We're not talking about a beach just serving locals," said Robb Wells, tourism director for the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce. "We're talking about a beach that

serves the state. ... That is our battle cry."

'Little Blue,' one of Hunting Island's last cottages, still fighting against the sea

Nov. 28, 2015 When "Little Blue," one of Hunting Island's last cottages, disappears, it will also mark the end of an era for Beaufort County.



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Beach erosion has left this Hunting Island cabin standing out in the ocean on its pilings in this photo taken in 2015 near the time of low tide.

Title: **N.C. bathroom law a 'double-edged sword' for South Carolina**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 40.14 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



N.C. bathroom law a 'double-edged sword' for South Carolina

BY CASSIE COPE

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South Carolina could benefit from the fallout from North Carolina's controversial bathroom law, S.C. business leaders say.

Companies opposed to discriminatory laws could look more favorably on South Carolina, leaders say.

However, the impact of the proposal is a "double-edged sword," said Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis.

That is because the S.C. border counties that align with Charlotte for economic development could be hurt by businesses pulling out or canceling their expansion plans in the Queen City, he said.

'PUTS SOUTH CAROLINA IN A GOOD PLACE'

Industries that are looking to expand in the United States are looking at the N.C. law – a ban on people using public bathrooms other than for the sex designated on their birth certificates – to see where a state stands, said S.C. Chamber of Commerce President Ted Pitts.

"That only puts South Carolina in a good place going forward on economic

development projects," said Pitts, a former chief of staff to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley.

The S.C. Chamber and Republican Haley both opposed a similar S.C. proposal.

Final efforts to pass that bathroom ban, sponsored by state Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, failed earlier this month.

"This is just not something that's a problem," Pitts said, adding, "It's a proposal that would be unenforceable."

The backlash in North Carolina and, earlier, against Georgia – where legislators passed a religious freedom proposal, criticized by some as anti-gay, subsequently vetoed – made it clear that a similar proposal would have an impact on S.C. jobs, Pitts said.

South Carolina is at the top of the list for economic development projects, Pitts said. But, if a proposal like Bright's were adopted, it would take South Carolina out of that position, he added.

'SOUTH CAROLINA HAS BEEN EATING NORTH

CAROLINA'S LUNCH'

The state Commerce Department would not discuss whether there has been a spike in economic development interest in South Carolina since the North Carolina controversy.

"The S.C. Department of Commerce neither comments nor issues data on projects that we may or may not be actively working," said spokeswoman Adrienne Fairwell.

But South Carolina regularly competes with North Carolina and Georgia for new jobs.

Last year, Volvo Cars decided to build an auto plant in Berkeley County after narrowing its selection to South Carolina and Georgia.

South Carolina also has competed with its northern border state.

"South Carolina has been eating North Carolina's lunch as far as economic development is concerned for years," said state Sen. Greg Gregory, R-Lancaster.

North Carolina-based companies that have opened across the border in South Carolina include Red Ven-

tures, a marketing and sales company that expanded its S.C. headquarters in Indian Land in November.

Last month, Lash Group, a patient support services company, held a ribbon cutting for its new Fort Mill headquarters, which moved from Charlotte.

'BUT IT COULD HURT US'

Since Lancaster County borders North Carolina, and Willis, the county administrator, said fallout from the controversy could go either way.

"It could help us, but it could hurt us," Willis said.

None of the companies that Lancaster County currently is working with have said they are interested in Lancaster because they are upset with North Carolina's new bathroom law, Willis said.

But, if a company is not going to consider the Charlotte region because of the bathroom law, that means Lancaster also might not be considered.

"We'll never know how much it may hurt us," Willis said.

Title: **Farm-aid veto a bad idea**
 Author:
 Size: 10.38 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



Farm-aid veto a bad idea

Earlier this month, the General Assembly passed a bill to give \$40 million to farmers for relief. The votes weren't close. Near the end of April, a bill passed in the Senate by a vote of 33-3. The bill sailed through the House on May 4 by a vote of 85-2. That makes the chances of overriding a veto good, but (Gov. Nikki) Haley doesn't care.

She said early this week that she would veto the bill because "it would be wrong to bail out the farmers when we can't bail out small businesses, when we can't bail out homeowners."

But farmers aren't your ordinary businessmen. Every year they risk most of what they have against natural forces that they can't control. Sometimes they don't get enough rain. Last year, they got too much. ...

Failing to help sustain the state's agriculture industry could mean not only that many farmers could go out of business but also that many potential young farmers will be discouraged from undertaking the risks of farming in the first place.

*- Morning News
Florence*