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**CC:** Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>  
**Date:** 8/27/2014 1:02:30 PM  
**Subject:** S.293, Murrell's Inlet-Garden City Fire District Veto Message Talking Points

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Good afternoon,

I have provided some information below that I hope will be helpful today regarding S.293 and will facilitate discussion and debate on the floor. Please let me know if you have any follow up questions. We look forward to seeing you and appreciate all of your help and support.

Thank you,  
Haley

**Why vote to sustain this veto?**

- **In essence, this bill could result in a 40% tax increase for fire protection.**
- **This bill allows for an increase of the tax rate by 40% on the property owners in the Murrell's Inlet-Garden City Fire District by increasing the millage from 10 mills to 14 mills.**
- This sets a horrible precedent. We are, in effect, raising taxes on a small group that 99% of us in this body don't represent.
- Did you know that this Fire District's Board that is asking for this increase isn't accountable to the voters? The Horry Georgetown Fire District Board is not an elected body.
- The bill denies the people of this area the right to be heard through a referendum and gives an unelected board the authority to raise taxes.
- The point will be made that those affected want their taxes raised. If that is the case then instead of asking the House of Representatives ask the affected taxpayers in the form of a referendum. Had this bill included a referendum, the Governor would have signed this bill into law.

**Points to consider:**

- Who in this room will be affected by this tax increase?
- Shouldn't we allow those that are affected by this tax increase decide?
- Will this open the door to other requests of a similar nature?
- 81 members were recorded as "not voting" on S.293. A vote to sustain this veto makes it clear for each district that these types of tax increases should be approved by the voters by a referendum and it is important that each member take a vote on this issue.

**Background:**

- S.293 - Authorizes Horry and Georgetown counties to raise taxes by increasing millage from 10 mills to 14 mills for the Murrell's Inlet-Garden City Fire District.
- The fire district is composed of two counties: 40% Georgetown County, 60% Horry County.
- The fire district covers 48 square miles.

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