
From: Baker, Josh
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 11:57 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Subject: S.534, Clarendon County

Governor,

Based on your feedback and conversations with Senator Johnson, here is a new draft of the body of the message.

jdb

I am vetoing and returning without my approval R.9, S.534, a bill that extends the one-cent sales tax in Clarendon County for ten years and allows the proceeds of that tax to be used for school operating expenses. I am vetoing this bill because it imposes a local sales tax for a decade longer than originally approved and I believe citizens must retain the right to approve local taxes. Further, the bill significantly expands the use of tax dollars for direct operating expenses, not the capital investments and property tax relief initially written into Act 355 of 2004.

I have worked with the bill's sponsor to draft alternative legislation requiring a voter referendum to extend the tax and use revenues for school operations. This way, voters would make the ultimate decision on how their tax money is spent, but Clarendon School District 3 would have additional operating funds as soon as voters grant access to them. Given that S.534 passed the General Assembly in just seven legislative days, there is more than enough time in the next two months to produce this new bill for signature.

I ask that you stand for the voting rights of the citizens of Clarendon County and sustain this veto of R.9, S.534. Together, we can meet the needs of the school districts with a new bill.