



South Carolina Department of
Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Nikki Haley
Governor

Duane N. Parrish
Director

July 2, 2015

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

On behalf of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, I would like to express my support for Governor Haley's Vetoes 50, 54 – 66 and 68 of the *FY 15/16 General Appropriations Act* and Veto 2 of the *FY 15/16 Capital Reserve Fund Joint Resolution*. Certainly, each of these projects has merit and value at the local level; however, because the immediate benefit of these individual projects is primarily limited to their respective local communities, I believe their funding should solely be the responsibility of their respective local governments. Moreover, even when viewed collectively, I believe the value of these projects does not transcend singular and strictly local benefits that do not adhere to SCPRT's mission or strategy for statewide tourism promotion. In addition, many of these projects are eligible for funding through the State Accommodations Tax collections that are allocated annually to local governments for distribution – a funding option that allows the local governments to utilize funds specifically designated for tourism-related projects and activities. This option provides each local government better oversight through funding approval authority and the ability to determine funding priority for its respective projects based on current needs.

Again, I would like to stress that my position regarding the funding of these projects should, in no way, be construed as a criticism of the projects themselves. Rather, it is an affirmation that, because these projects fall outside the immediate scope of SCPRT's statewide mission and strategy, their funding responsibilities should be limited to the local communities and governments whose interests they most immediately serve. I believe the true success of a state's tourism industry necessitates statewide collaboration based upon participation from local tourism business communities and support from their respective local governments. Allowing local governments to individually fulfill their responsibilities to their respective tourism business communities ensures sustainable tourism economic development for the state as a whole and, ultimately, facilitates SCPRT's ability to effectively market South Carolina as a travel destination.

I urge you to sustain Governor Haley's vetoes of these provisos and allow these projects to be funded by the local communities and governments that they most directly benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Duane Parrish".

Duane Parrish