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Date: 6/26/2016 11:52:28 AM

Subject: Fwd: Jasper County Port Facility Infrastructure Fund, Act. No. 56 -- Session 117 (2007-2008)

Attachments: senate -- jasper county port facility infrastructure fund (act 56).pdf
ATT00001.htm

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Davis <tdavis@harveyandbattey.com>

Date: June 23, 2016 at 3:32:03 PM EDT

To: "governor@govoepp.state.sc.us" <governor@govoepp.state.sc.us>, "hkl@scsenate.gov" <hkl@scsenate.gov>, "brianwhite@schouse.gov" <brianwhite@schouse.gov>, "DMARCHAND@gaports.com" <DMARCHAND@gaports.com>

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Subject: Jasper County Port Facility Infrastructure Fund, Act. No. 56 -- Session 117 (2007-2008)

Via email and regular United States Mail

DATE June 23, 2016

TO: Gov. Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina
Sen. Hugh Leatherman, Chairman of SC Senate Finance
Rep. Brian White, Chairman of SC House Ways & Means

Doug Marchand, Executive Director of the JOT-JPO

FROM: Tom Davis, SC Senator for District 46

RE: Jasper County Port Facility Infrastructure Fund, Act. No. 56 -- Session 117 (2007-2008)

On November 24, 2015, after years of due diligence and preparation, the Jasper Ocean Terminal Joint Project Office (the "JOT-JPO") filed a permit application for the Jasper County Port with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Charleston District). It is anticipated that the permitting process will take five years, and for construction of the port facility to commence once the permit is issued.

Gov. Nikki Haley has correctly pointed out, however, that during that five-year permit-processing period, "state and local leaders must work to get their ducks in a row so that we are waiting on everyone else and no one is waiting on us," and that part of that preparation "includes putting money in savings and budgeting how much we are going to need for the Jasper port – so that the Corps never has to question whether the state can really do this." (Comments made by Gov. Haley at a Jasper County Port briefing on May 2, 2016.) Gov. Haley likened the setting aside of funds for Jasper County Port infrastructure to the \$300 million set aside by the General Assembly in the 2012 budget for the deepening of the Charleston port.

The South Carolina General Assembly has also recognized the need for the state to start addressing infrastructure needs associated with the Jasper County Port, having passed a bill that was signed into law by the governor on June 15, 2007, which provided in part as follows: "SECTION 7. There is created the Jasper County Port Infrastructure Fund. The fund shall be used for expenses and administrative fees incurred by the county relative to the county's infrastructure and service provision requirements related to the Jasper County Port Facility." (Act. No. 56 -- Session 117; 2007-2008.) A copy of the cited portion of this Act is attached.

On October 21, 2008, the JOT-JPO retained Moffat Nichol as the project manager for the Jasper County Port, and for the past seven years Moffat Nichol has done extensive due diligence, including a thorough assessment of the infrastructure needs associated with operating this port. Among other things, those needs would include: 1) constructing a frontage road along the Savannah River connecting the port site with SC Highway 17; 2) widening portions of SC Highways 17 and 315 so that a four-lane road connects the port frontage road with I-95; and 3) building a two-lane bridge that spans Back River so that four lanes connects Jasper County and Hutchinson Island (and, by extension, Savannah).

All of the above leads me to the following requests:

Mr. Marchand, it would be very helpful if Moffatt Nichol could draw from its due diligence and issue a report to the JOT-JPO detailing the infrastructure needs of the Jasper County Port and providing an estimate of their cost. Would you make inquiries in this regard and have it prepare such a report?

Gov. Haley, Sen. Leatherman, and Rep. White, once you receive a detailed and credible report on these infrastructure needs, would you include a sufficient recurring appropriation to the Jasper County Port Facility Infrastructure Fund in your proposed budgets in order to meet those needs?

I sincerely appreciate your attention to and consideration of these matters. The people of Jasper County – and of the nearby counties of Beaufort, Hampton, Allendale and Colleton – are very excited now that the permitting process for the Jasper County Port has actually begun. I am by copy of this email advising other interested parties of this correspondence; if I've left someone out who you think should be apprised, please forward this email to them and copy me with the remittance so that I can include them on future correspondence. Thanks.

cc: Sen. Margie Bright-Matthews, SC Senator for District 45
Danny Black, Executive Director for the Southern Carolina Alliance
Andy Fulghum, Manager of Jasper County
Kraig Jordan, Chairman of the CTC for Beaufort County
Craig Forrest, Member of the CTC for Beaufort County

Swati Patel, Chief of Staff for Gov. Nikki Haley
Colden Battey, Member of JOT-JPO
Christy Hall, Secretary of the SCDOT
Beverly Smith, Chief of Staff for SC House Ways & Means
Mike Shealy, Chief of Staff for SC Finance
Rep. Bill Herbkersman, Member of SC House Ways & Means
Rep. Shannon Erickson, Member of SC House Ways & Means
Bobby Hitt, SC Secretary of Commerce
Dean Moss, Chairman of the Savannah River Maritime Commission
Jim Newsome, President of the SC State Ports Authority
Dave Posek, Member of JOT-JPO
Pat McKinney, Member of JOT-JPO
Barbara Melvin, Senior Vice President, SC State Ports Authority
Sen. Larry Grooms, Chairman of SC Port Review & Oversight