State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 29, 2015

The Honorable James H. Lucas
Speaker of the House of Representatives
South Carolina Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives,

I am vetoing and returning to you several line items in R128, H.3702, a Joint Resolution to appropriate monies from the Capital Reserve Fund.

When I submitted my Fiscal Year 2015-16 Executive Budget in January, my recommendations for the Capital Reserve Fund included funding for our colleges and universities, our technical college system, our National Guard armories, and other priorities to maintain state-owned infrastructure. Many of those same priorities are expressed in the Joint Resolution that came to my desk, but it is worth noting how this bill got to my desk.

Earlier this year, the General Assembly proposed a massive bond bill that would have totaled over $500 million in borrowing for state-owned buildings and one-time cash for recurring expenses of government. With help from many legislators, this hasty and irresponsible borrowing plan was placed on the shelf. By the end of May, we had an additional $300 million in General Funds alone and another $100 million in other sources such as the education sales tax and lottery funds. South Carolina's good fortune – the result of a trained workforce, business-friendly climate, and low debt – drives tax revenues to pay for our needs on a recurring basis.

The Capital Reserve Fund bill you have sent to my desk largely reflects our values and priorities, funding colleges and technical schools with money we have now, not with debt we will pay for over the next fifteen years.

Veto 1 — Section 1, Page 2 – Item (7), Judicial Department Disaster Recovery Plan, $2,500,000

The Fiscal Year 2015-16 Appropriation Act supports two additional family court judges and related staff, as well as capital funding for digital courtroom reporting equipment to make our courts run more efficiently. I am unable to support, however, the $2,500,000 for disaster recovery in light of Act 269 of 2012, which gives the court a dedicated source of recurring funding expressly for "the support of court technology" that should be used to pay for this item.

Veto 2 **Section 1, Page 3 – Item (17), Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, State Aquarium Renovation, $1,000,000**

As with over a dozen other earmarks I vetoed in the FY 2015-16 General Appropriations Act, this is an unacceptable earmark in a year where the General Assembly gave state parks very little capital support. The State Aquarium should seek local and philanthropic support, memberships, and fees to pay for facility maintenance.

Veto 3 **Section 1, Page 3 – Item (18), Election Commission, Presidential Preference Primaries, $2,200,000**

I vetoed a similar item in 2011 and must now do so for the same reasons. As I have made clear throughout my entire administration, I believe that private dollars are the appropriate way to fund a partisan Presidential Primary. The Attorney General has affirmed that the respective state parties can contract with the State Election Commission to conduct the primary. South Carolina will host the First in the South Presidential Primary in 2016, and it will be as successful as it always has been; but it should not fall to the taxpayers to cover the expense.

For these reasons, I am vetoing the aforementioned line items and sections in R128, H.3702.

My very best,

Nikki R. Haley