



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

May 16, 2022

To the Members of the General Assembly,

After decades of overriding vetoes of successive governors, the leadership of the Senate and House of Representatives have begun publicly disclosing the sponsors and recipients of state budget earmarks - earmarks that were previously shielded from public view, debate, and scrutiny. I believe that this is a positive and necessary first step.

However, disclosure of earmark sponsors and recipients is not enough. Transparency must be absolute and uncompromised to maintain the public's trust and confidence in their government.

Without sufficient context, description, justification, or information regarding the project and how the recipient intends to spend the funds, the public cannot evaluate the earmark's merit. Moreover, no matter how deserving the project, the public must be confident that proper accountability measures are in place to ensure the funds are appropriately spent.

Certainly, the public expects the Governor to have this information when deciding whether to approve or veto items in the state budget.

Therefore, if you have been identified as a sponsor or co-sponsor of a proposed earmark appropriation in the House or Senate versions of the FY 2022-23 General Appropriations Act, I ask that you provide the attached information to my office no later than 5:00 pm on Friday June 3, 2022.

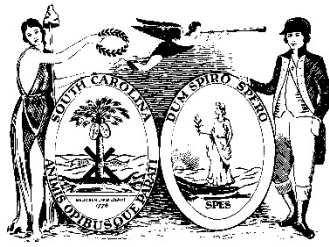
Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster

Attachment



Earmark Disclosure Information

Only written responses will be accepted. Please deliver information in-person, via USPS mail, or by email. Information submitted for this request is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Information to be provided:

Today's Date

Earmark Sponsor

Project/Event Name

Amount

Recipient

Recipient Type (*Local Government, Non-Profit, Private Organization, etc.*)

W-9 Form (*Federal Tax ID Number*)

Point of Contact

Title

Address, City and State

Phone Number

Email Address

Website

Please provide a written summary and description for:

1. The activity, function or project for which earmark is intended
2. Public purpose served by the project
3. Project budget
4. Demonstrated community support and need
5. Details of any state funds previously appropriated to the same entity for same or similar purpose

Send to:

Office of the Governor

South Carolina Statehouse

1100 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201

budget@governor.sc.gov

Deadline:

Friday, June 3, 2022

5:00 P.M.

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