State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 6, 2016

The Honorable Henry D. McMaster
President of the Senate
Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

Today, I am vetoing and returning without my approval R230, S.973, a bill that earmarks 2.25 percent of insurance premium tax receipts for Forestry Commission and other local functions.

This year, as in past years, my FY 2016-17 Executive Budget has supported the Forestry Commission's firefighting efforts with $1.3 million in recommendations for capital replenishment and front line personnel. Additionally, my budget recommended $113,117,380 to meet our legally mandated support for local government functions, including first responders.

I understand that every agency in state and local government would prefer dedicated funding streams for their operations. **Unfortunately, dedicating General Fund revenues to specific uses commits us to spending, limiting our ability to react during to revenue downturns and recessions. It further makes the appropriations process less transparent and accountable.** The responsible approach to resourceing the core functions of government is to do so annually though the General Appropriaions Act.

I will continue to fight for our firefighters and emergency medical professionals, but I believe that we should take a hard look at how we prioritize and fund our essential services each year. I have vetoed this bill because those decisions should not be on autopilot.

My very best,

Nikki R. Haley