State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House,

I hereby veto and return without my approval R319, H.3790, a local bill creating the Bamberg County Water and Sewer Authority wholly located in Bamberg County.

Since the beginning of my Administration, I have been clear that I will veto local legislation that is clearly unconstitutional. **H.3790 affects only Bamberg County and therefore is unconstitutional – violating the Home Rule provision of our State Constitution, Article VIII, Section 7.**

Every member of the General Assembly is expected to vote on all legislation, including local bills. I believe members who fail to vote are supporting the violation of our constitution that we have sworn to uphold. Therefore, I ask that you stop the practice of passing unconstitutional local legislation and help preserve and protect our State Constitution **by sustaining this veto.**

For too long, the General Assembly has involved itself in entirely local issues like providing water and sewer services to county and municipal residents, which violate Home Rule. Accordingly, I would ask the General Assembly to send me a bill devolving individual delegations' authority relating to single county special purpose districts to county governing bodies, as our State Constitution intended almost 40 years ago.

For these reasons, I am vetoing R319, H.3790.

Sincerely,

Nikki R. Haley