



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

March 31, 2015

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

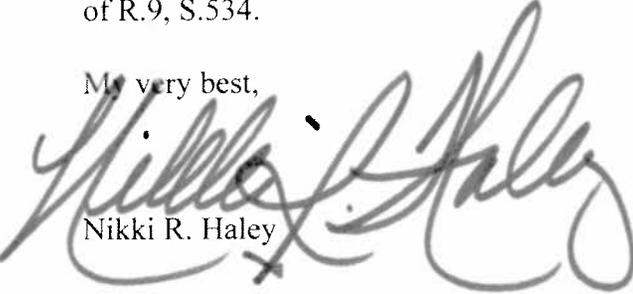
Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

I am vetoing and returning without my approval R.9, S.534, a bill that extends the one-cent sales tax in Clarendon County for ten years and allows the proceeds of that tax to be used for school operating expenses. I am vetoing this bill because I believe citizens must retain the right to approve local taxes.

I have worked with the bill's sponsor, Senator Kevin Johnson, to draft alternative legislation requiring a voter referendum to extend the tax and use revenues for school operations. This way, voters would make the ultimate decision on how their tax money is spent and Clarendon School District 3 would have additional operating funds as soon as voters grant access to them. I encourage you to work with Senator Johnson to expeditiously move this revised bill through the legislative process.

I ask that you stand for the voting rights of the citizens of Clarendon County and sustain this veto of R.9, S.534.

My very best,


Nikki R. Haley