State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 7, 2011

The Honorable Ken Ard
President of the Senate
State House, First Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

I am vetoing S.211, R57, a bill that creates the "I-95 Corridor Authority" – a new and separate state agency focused solely on the educational and economic development of a region of South Carolina known as the I-95 Corridor.

I am vetoing S.211, R57, because it unnecessarily grows government. By duplicating the efforts of existing state agencies – the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the South Carolina Department of Education, and local school districts, **this bill further dilutes state resources and accountability for education and economic development.** While I understand the unique challenges faced by the communities located within this area, I have assurances from Secretary Bobby Hitt that the efforts of the Department of Commerce will be directed at all regions of the state. Further, State Superintendant of Education Mick Zais has committed to making publicly funded education in South Carolina more effective and to driving more resources to the classroom. We must not carve out regions to prioritize over others. Rather, communities should coordinate their efforts with those of the Department of Commerce to ensure statewide economic development.

I encourage local governments and local chambers of commerce to work together in the spirit of cooperation set forth in this bill, but this cooperation does not require a General Fund appropriation or a new state agency. I am committed to working with leaders across the state to improve the quality of life for all of South Carolina's citizens, including those in the I-95 Corridor; however I firmly believe that growing state bureaucracy in the manner prescribed in this bill is not the answer.

For the reasons stated above, I am vetoing S.211, R57.

Sincerely,

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/tp/rs