State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

June 13, 2006

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3773, R-405.

This bill selectively exempts the sale of gold, silver, any combination of bullion, and coins from the state sales tax. In my 2006 State of the State, I made it explicitly clear that we must take an in-depth look at sales tax exemptions that no longer serve their purpose. Along the same lines, I find it to be bad policy to cherry pick items to add to this list that will also not serve a purpose. These items found in H. 3773 – many which are purchased as "collectibles" – will, in no way, advance this state forward from a competitive or an economic growth standpoint. It, therefore, serves no benefit to create piecemeal legislation adding new items to the list of exemptions before taking the time to look at the usefulness of the current exemptions.

Second, there currently are no items on the exemption list that would be considered personal "collectibles." Adding the items in this bill would open the door and set up the stage for any and all "collectibles" to be added to this list. I see no advantage to the state by adding potential items such as comic books, baseball cards, or old records.

Bottom line, it is imperative that we use exemptions that serve the state in a fair and equitable manner. Creating legislation that only helps a very select group does not seem to us to be fair nor equitable.

For these reasons, I am returning H. 3773 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

Mark Sanford