



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 3, 2014

The Honorable Floyd Nicholson
608 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Senator Nicholson,

Today, I signed R237, S.1172, a bill that establishes a cultural district designation program at the South Carolina Arts Commission. This program allows local governments to identify regions with unique and exceptional value as cultural destinations and have those regions formally recognized as cultural districts

I signed this bill because I believe the arts, like our unique heritage, expansive rural landscape, and world-class beaches, are invaluable assets that preserve our common identity and drive our tourism industry. I further believe that the existence of unique and exceptional creative centers within our state is the result of natural, community supported growth and not the result of government funding or mandates. Last year, the General Assembly indicated a similar belief when it sustained my veto of funding for this program.

To be clear, my support of these new cultural districts, which I believe can be a tool to enhance tourism and local cultural development, should not be construed as support for funding it in this or future years. God bless.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley