June 13, 2006

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
South Carolina House of Representatives
508 Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am returning H. 4812, R-433, the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations Act, with the line-item vetoes detailed below. Of the $102,325,596 devoted to capital reserve fund spending, I believe the vetoed items represent a lower level of urgency than other more pressing agency needs throughout the state. Examples include facility maintenance needs at the Department of Corrections, which we funded through the CRF at $7 million versus the Conference Committee budget of $2.5 million and the Department of Juvenile Justice’s request to replace two dorms during FY 2006-07, which we funded at nearly $5 million versus the Conference Committee budget of only $3.2 million – enough to replace only one dorm.

The under-funding of these two capital projects highlights the differences and opportunities associated with agency funding. While certain agencies have alternative funding streams available to them such as alumni support if a college or university, or patron support if a cultural event or destination, others such as the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice have few options beyond state support. As a case in point, there will not likely be any alumni associations at either of the state’s correctional agencies for the foreseeable future.

Another item that we funded at $5 million from the CRF was upgrades and improvements to the state’s weigh station system. As mentioned within the veto message of H.4810, this is a public safety issue which deserves the state’s attention. Nevertheless, this item did not receive any support within the Conference Committee budget.

Therefore, in an effort to better utilize the CRF for pressing capital needs, some of which have few funding alternatives beyond the state, I have set forth below the specific vetoes that, in the aggregate, eliminate spending of $6,486,364 in capital reserve funds.

Veto 1    Section 1; Page 2; Item 9; The Citadel; Infirmary Roof Repair; $1,500,000
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**Veto 2**  Section 1; Page 2; Item 10; Coastal Carolina University; College of Natural Science (Nutraceuticals); $250,000

**Veto 3**  Section 1; Page 2; Item 11; South Carolina State University; Repair/Renovation; $2,500,000

**Veto 4**  Section 1; Page 2; Item 14; Vocational Rehabilitation; Parking Facilities Upgrade; $165,000

**Veto 5**  Section 1; Page 2; Item 20; Office of Indigent Defense; Information Technology; $500,000

**Veto 6**  Section 1; Page 3; Item 35; Department of Agriculture; Pee Dee Market Expansion; $750,000

**Veto 7**  Section 1; Page 4; Item 47; Arts Commission; Arts Facility Project; $821,364

For the reasons stated above, and pursuant to the authority granted to the governor by Article IV, Section 21 of the South Carolina Constitution, I am vetoing the specific sections and items of H. 4812, R-433, the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations Act, as indicated. I look forward to working together toward the goal of disciplined budgetary practices and cooperative service to the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Mark Sanford