June 16, 2008

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 signature H. 4950, R-427.

This bill clarifies the definition of a textile mill in order to qualify for incentives included in the South Carolina Textiles Communities Revitalization Act of 2004.

We are vetoing this bill because it has almost identical language as contained in S. 1171—a bill that became law on June 12, 2008, thus making H. 4950 redundant.

We also believe, for the record, that the slight difference favored in the earlier bill represents a more responsible approach with regard to incentives. This bill clarifies that incentives can only be approved if a building has last been used as an operating textile mill. This provision would prevent the practice of “double dipping” whereby the same building could receive incentive money over and over just because it had once been a textile mill. This would subvert the original purpose of the legislation, which is to encourage the development of abandoned mills and thus improve the physical appearance of surrounding areas. We believe that without the provisions placed in S. 1171, the original spirit of the Act could and would be abused.

For these reasons, I am vetoing H. 4950, R-427.

Sincerely,

Mark Sanford