State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

June 22, 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 hereby vetoing and returning without my approval S.913, R-98, a bill creating the Kershaw County Housing Authority.

This bill is unconstitutional. Local legislation like S.913 violates the Home Rule provision of our State Constitution (Article VIII, Section 7) which provides that "…[n]o laws for a specific county shall be enacted …." This bill applies only to Kershaw County and does not relate to public education or other acceptable exceptions recognized by law. Additionally, while Article 7, Chapter 3 of Title 31 authorizes the creation of county housing authorities by legislative delegations, this statute was enacted prior to the 1973 adoption of the Home Rule laws; and therefore is likely to be declared unconstitutional. The appropriate authority to create a county housing authority is the county council.

Every member of the General Assembly is expected to vote on all legislation, including local bills. **I believe members who fail to vote are supporting the violation of our constitution. I ask that you stop the practice of passing unconstitutional local legislation and help preserve and protect our State Constitution by sustaining this veto.**

Sincerely,

Nikki R. Haley