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The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: Port Royal Shrimp Dock Budget Allocation

Dear Governor McMaster:

On behalf of the Town of Port Royal, I wanted to provide an explanation of the planned expenditure of funds allocated for the renovation and repair of the Port Royal Shrimp Docks in the proposed state budget (\$1,000,000), which will also include construction of a seafood processing facility. The Town, through continued negotiations with the South Carolina Ports Authority, was assigned ownership of the existing shrimp dock and property that abuts the shrimp dock. The Town has committed to maintain this culturally iconic industry and has done so since 2006, when it assumed management of the dock. To this date, the Town has spent almost \$3,000,000 to honor shrimping and seafood harvesting at the dock.

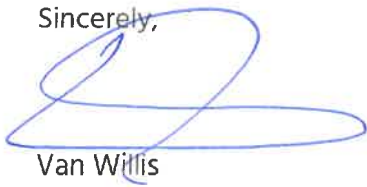
Port Royal for the last 18 months engaged a maritime lawyer to secure the relocation and removal of a significant number of derelict boats. This involved the federal courts and finally an auction of the last two shrimp trawlers. In April of this year, the Town cleared the dock.

The Town has engaged a commercial dock construction company to remove the existing dock due to its poor condition, which also includes the removal of three sunken shrimp boats adjacent to the dock. As you can imagine this will be an expensive endeavor, but one that is necessary to properly reconstruct a functioning dock. Upon completion of demolition, the Town has an approved dock permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers. We are contemplating a reconfiguration to better accommodate seafood vessels.

The \$1,000,000 allocation will be designated to the construction of the dock, expected to exceed \$2,000,000 including demolition. The processing facility is anticipated to handle not only shrimp, but other product, such as swordfish, tuna, crab, and/or any other product that can be moved across the dock. Construction of that facility is expected to range anywhere from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.

The Town truly appreciates the support of the State in this endeavor. As one of the last publicly owned shrimp docks in South Carolina, and probably, the southeast, the Town is committed to protecting and enhancing this culturally iconic industry of the Lowcountry and state of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Van Willis", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized with a large loop and a horizontal stroke.

Van Willis

Town Manager