

May 1, 2023

R. Shell Dula
Scott L. Earley
P.O. Box 50028
Greenwood, SC 29649

Dear Chairman Bruce Bannister,

The South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association is formally requesting that the members of the Ways and Means Committee of the South Carolina House of Representatives allot funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl, North vs. South All-Star Football Game.

The North vs. South All-Star Football Game, sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of South Carolina, has played and continues to play a vital role in the state of South Carolina. It's long standing and rich tradition of 74 years has honored the student-athletes of the state by showcasing their elite talents in a final competition at the end of their senior season of football. The annual event was hosted in various cities around the state before moving to the City of Myrtle Beach in 1986 where it has remained. The North Team and South Team select 44 players each to represent their geographical regions. After a week of practice, the two teams come head-to-head in the final showdown of their high school careers. This past year, 2022, this organization provided senior student-athletes with the only opportunity to showcase their abilities after the football season had concluded, due to the absence of the Shrine Bowl. In 2022, The Touchstone Energy Bowl also expanded its support of student-athletes by honoring the top 88 players from the junior class to participate in a combine that was attended by college coaches, coordinators, and recruiters. Spectators looked on as juniors from across the state competed in the 40 yard dash, bench press, vertical leap, and other stations that showcased their abilities.

In addition to providing South Carolina student-athletes with an opportunity of a lifetime, this premier event, hosted in Myrtle Beach each December, provides the city and its surroundings with tourism and a great financial impact due to the attention and prestige the event attracts. The Touchstone Energy Bowl uses the local hotels, restaurants, stores, and resources while student-athletes, coaches, and other necessary personnel spend a week on site preparing for the game. Each year, The Touchstone Energy Bowl spends over \$6,600.00 at a local Target by allowing 44 elementary aged children to spend \$150.00 each on any item(s) of their choosing. Each child is partnered with a North player and a South player as they shop through Target on an all-expenses-paid excursion.

If given the funds requested, The Touchstone Energy Bowl will use the \$100,000.00 to expand, promote, improve, and enhance our platform and operations of the game for all those involved. With your generous support, we hope to take The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, North vs. South All-Star Football Game to new heights for the elite athletes of the state of South Carolina.

Respectfully yours,

R. Shell Dula
*Executive Director of the South
Carolina Athletic Coaches Association*

Scott L. Earley
*Executive Director of the Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives Bowl, North vs. South All-Star Football
Game*