

RESOLUTION #05-15

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE FUNDING NEEDS FOR STATE MAINTAINED AND OPERATED ROADS AND BRIDGES WITHOUT TRANSFERRING THE BURDEN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND OPPOSING ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THROUGH LACK OF STATE FUNDING WILL LEAD TO INCREASED TAXES ON THE CITIZENS OF NEWBERRY COUNTY.

WHEREAS, Newberry County, along with the vast majority of citizens, acknowledges that South Carolina's infrastructure is in desperate need of repairs and funding sources; and

WHEREAS, it is widely understood that the State has failed to sufficiently address and fund road and bridge projects over the years; and

WHEREAS, only 10% of the non-federal aid eligible secondary roads assigned for transfer are in good condition while 90% are in fair or poor condition, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is in a much better position to assess the needs and to perform the necessary maintenance on these roads in the state system, and

WHEREAS, H. 3579 claims that the dumping of State roads onto counties is "optional" and comes with "adequate" funding, but the option is left to the County Transportation Committee (CTC) and not the County Council and the proposed funding is insufficient to repair and maintain the nearly 19,000 miles of roads; and

WHEREAS, devolving this authority onto an appointed body renders this legislation constitutionally suspect; and

WHEREAS, if the CTC does not refuse the roads then the County is forced to accept the financial responsibility, maintenance, and liability of the roads; and

WHEREAS, the bill places too much power with the CTC, which is not liable or accountable to the taxpayers if the funding is insufficient or if the CTC elects to spend the money on other projects such as state-owned roads; and

WHEREAS, insufficient funding would result in a potential local tax increase on County citizens to pay for maintenance and repair on the deteriorating roads; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Newberry County Council that it is opposed to any legislative efforts to transfer state-owned roads to local governments and requests that all members of the South Carolina General Assembly refuse further consideration of any proposed legislation.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS 15th DAY OF APRIL, 2015.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

(SEAL)

Attest:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council