

SENATOR SHANE MASSEY
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 25
AIKEN, EDGEFIELD, LEXINGTON,
McCORMICK & SALUDA COUNTIES

COMMITTEES:
RULES, CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
CORRECTIONS
JUDICIARY
LABOR, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



SENATOR NIKKI SETZLER
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 26
AIKEN, CALHOUN, LEXINGTON
& SALUDA COUNTIES

COMMITTEES:
BANKING & INSURANCE
EDUCATION
FINANCE
INTERSTATE COOPERATION
LABOR, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

August 4, 2017

The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman
President Pro Tempore, South Carolina Senate
111 Gressette Bldg
Columbia, SC 29201

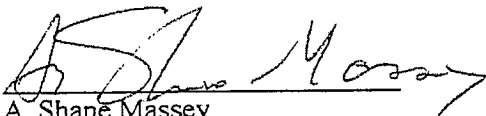
Dear Senator Leatherman:

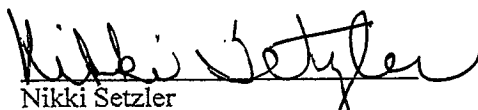
As the Republican and Democratic Leaders of the Senate, we and the members of our caucuses are greatly concerned by the announcement earlier this week by SCANA and Santee Cooper that the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station project would be abandoned. That decision resulted in some 6,000 jobs being lost immediately, impacting families throughout the Midlands and economic development statewide. Additionally, it has been indicated that SCANA and electric cooperative customers could be stuck with the substantial rates they have been paying to finance construction of the project and required to pay even more for the utilities to recover their losses.

We understand a joint Senate and House review committee has already announced plans for a public meeting to question those involved, gather information on what led to the abandonment, and consider potential legislative changes. We support those efforts, as we believe that type of public inquiry is essential for accountability and for everyone to learn the facts.

While we are confident the review committee will be thorough and act quickly, we are concerned that Santee Cooper and/or the Public Service Commission, at SCANA's request, might increase power bills yet again before the review committee has completed its work. We believe South Carolinians should have an opportunity to understand what has happened, and the General Assembly should have an opportunity to evaluate the facts, corporate responsibility, and the state's energy policy, before the utilities seek additional increases. Therefore, we ask that you and Speaker Lucas reconvene the General Assembly to consider a joint resolution suspending the authority of Santee Cooper and the Public Service Commission to act on the V.C. Summer project or authorize electricity rate increases until the legislature has a chance to act in the 2018 session.

Sincerely,


A. Shane Massey
Senate Majority Leader


Nikki Setzler
Senate Minority Leader