

The House of Representatives

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE HOUSE
P.O. BOX 11867
Columbia 29211
(803) 734-2701

JAMES H. LUCAS
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

HOME ADDRESS:
113 Lyndale Dr.
Hartsville, SC 29550

January 24, 2013

Chairman W. Brian White
Ways & Means Committee
Room 525, Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

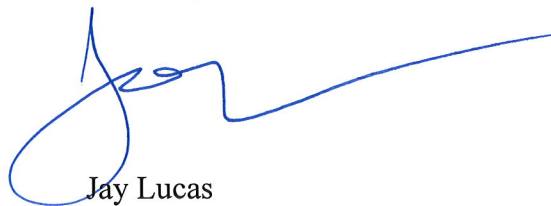
Dear Brian:

I am writing with regard to Title 11, Chapter 11 of the South Carolina law code, with particular reference to Sections 90 and 100. As I am sure you are aware, these sections require the House Ways & Means Committee to meet in an open session, jointly with the Senate Finance Committee to hear testimony on the Governor's executive budget.

To my knowledge, we have never held these meetings. I write you today in hopes that you may be able to shed some light on why that is the case. Personally, I like the idea of starting the budget process in this manner - I think it could lead to a more efficient and transparent process. Since the law allows the joint committee to require testimony from agency representatives about their budget requests, we could streamline the budget process and possibly have resolution to the budget much earlier than we currently do. In turn, this could allow us to achieve a repeated goal of the House Republican Caucus of shortening the length of the legislative session.

I know we both agree on the importance creating the most public and transparent budget process possible and ensuring that all applicable laws are followed. I ask that you please review this statute and all other governing language, and if necessary join me in calling for the existence of these meetings.

Sincerely,



Jay Lucas