STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) **RESOLUTION 1162-R2021**
COUNTY OF LANCASTER)

A RESOLUTION

TO EXPRESS LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL'S REQUEST THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALLOW COUNTIES TO INCREASE THE MILLAGE CAP SET BY SECTION 6-1-320 OF THE S.C. CODE OF LAWS IN THE LIMITED MANNER SET OUT IN SENATE BILL 401.

WHEREAS, Lancaster County, along with the vast majority of citizens, acknowledge that South Carolina counties' abilities to raise revenue are limited due to the passage of Act 388 in 2006; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that many counties have not raised their millage over the past couple of years due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, many fire districts are shifting from volunteer to career (paid) firefighters and do not have the necessary revenue due to the millage cap restrictions mentioned below; and

WHEREAS, many counties are using outdated equipment and do not have the personnel to effectively provide critical and life-saving fire protection needs to the citizens of their county; and

WHEREAS, many counties are already close to their millage cap while others could potential raise millage, but the slight increase in revenue would not pay for the services needed; and

WHEREAS, S.401 would allow counties to adopt an ordinance or resolution to suspend the millage rate limitation set out in §6-1-320 for the sole purpose of supporting a fire protection district created pursuant to Chapter 19 of Title 4 or those fire districts created pursuant to Title 6; and

WHEREAS, S. 401 would provide a short-term solution by allowing for a one-time millage increase above the caps for fire protection within two years of the effective date of the legislation; and

WHEREAS, S. 401 is not a statewide tax increase but merely provides those counties in need with a resource to combat their already strained budgets caused by loss of revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council that it is in support of S. 401 and requests that all members of the South Carolina General Assembly take action to ensure the enactment of this critical piece of legislation during the 124th Session of the General Assembly.

IT IS SO RESOLVED

by County Council this _____ day of August, 2021.

LANCASTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

_____
Steve Harper, Chair, County Council

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Billy Mosteller, Secretary, County Council

ATTEST:

_____
Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council

Approved as to form:

_____
John K. DuBose, III, County Attorney