

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Supreme Court**

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JUN 30 2017

S.C. SUPREME COURT

APPEAL FROM LEE COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Thomas W. Cooper, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2007-065159

Abbeville County School District, et al.,.....Appellants–Respondents,

v.

The State of South Carolina, et al., of whom
Hugh K. Leatherman, as President Pro Tempore
of the Senate and as a representative of the
South Carolina Senate, and James H. Lucas,
as Speaker of the House of Representatives and
as a representative of the South Carolina House
of Representatives, are.....Respondents–Appellants,

and

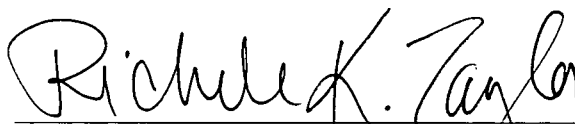
State of South Carolina, Henry D. McMaster,
as Governor of the State of South Carolina, are.....Respondents.

RETURN TO PETITIONS TO VACATE

Pursuant to Rule 240(e) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, Respondent Henry D. McMaster, as Governor of the State of South Carolina (“Governor McMaster”), hereby submits this consolidated Return (“Return”) to the Petition to Vacate Supplemental Orders filed by Respondent–Appellant Hugh K. Leatherman, as President Pro Tempore of the Senate and as a representative of the South Carolina Senate, and the Petition to Vacate Continuing Jurisdiction or, in the Alternative, Dismiss the South Carolina House of Representatives as a Respondent, filed by Respondent–Appellant James H. Lucas, as Speaker of the House of Representatives and as a

representative of the South Carolina House of Representatives (collectively, "Petitions to Vacate"). Governor McMaster joins in the response filed by the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of the State of South Carolina and respectfully concurs that the Court should not retain continued jurisdiction in the above-captioned matter. Accordingly, Governor McMaster does not oppose the present Petitions to Vacate.

Respectfully submitted,



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the State of South Carolina*

June 30, 2017
Columbia, South Carolina

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State of South Carolina, Henry D. McMaster,
as Governor of the State of South Carolina, are.....Respondents.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the (1) Report of Governor Henry D. McMaster, as Governor of the State of South Carolina, as Required by Order Dated September 20, 2016 and (2) Return to Petitions to Vacate on each of the other parties, through their respective counsel of record, by depositing a copy of the same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on this date, addressed as follows:

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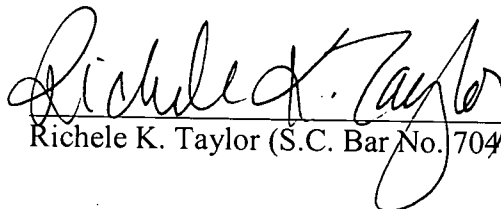
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Richele K. Taylor (S.C. Bar No. 70493)

June 30, 2017
Columbia, South Carolina