



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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October 8, 2008

Mr. Frank Fusco
Executive Director - Budget and Control Board
Post Office Box 12444
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Frank,

It strikes me that the only thing more wasteful than unnecessarily spending \$6 million in security upgrades for the Statehouse complex is to double up personnel costs in its administration. This only exacerbates the strain and load for taxpayers here in South Carolina. My opposition to the \$6 million security upgrades was well chronicled in the papers; as you may remember, I said that I didn't think the Statehouse was a high priority target and said the money would be better spent combating our state's violent crime problem.

What absolutely dumfounds me now is that because of the concerns with the ground level gate being hit by delivery trucks on the way in or out, a person has now been assigned over the last week – as I've gone in and out of the complex – to sit there facilitating the opening and closing of the gate and to check people's identification. So much for the \$6 million system. This is a colossal waste of money.

Not surprisingly, with the exception of Sherman's march through this town, our Statehouse has stood fine for nearly the last 150 years. I have no doubt that if we geared down on the present wastes of taxpayer money on supposed "security," it would continue just fine, and this is particularly important given the budget shortfalls our state faces.

No one is thinking about the reality of a threat, or a lack thereof, and then measuring it up against manpower requirements, which in this case are real. As a taxpayer I'm bothered, and would ask that we stop putting good money after bad with regard to some of the security measures now employed around the Statehouse. This is particularly true while the legislature is out of session. In their absence I feel just fine with the Comptroller General, the Treasurer, Lieutenant Governor and others in fending for ourselves in the event of a most unlikely attack.

Take good care, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MS", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Sanford

MS/kp