

**Alan D. Clemmons**

District No. 107 - Horry County  
1800-A North Oak Street  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
Tel. (843) 448-4292

522-B Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Tel. (803) 734-2994



## House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

### Committees:

Judiciary  
Election Laws Subcommittee,  
Chairman  
Rules, Vice-Chairman  
Judicial Merit Selection  
Commission

June 28, 2011

Mr. Jay Smith  
Assistant Attorney General for South Carolina  
Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing you concerning House Bill 3003, the Voter Identification provisions, recently signed into law in South Carolina. You have asked me to briefly explain why I chose to introduce H.3003. I will try to explain how I came to feel that voter identification was an important issue.

First, let me say that it is an unspoken truth in South Carolina that election fraud exists. Though no one likes to speak about it, it is well known in politics that elections can be won and lost, based not only on who votes but who votes for whom. Opponents of this bill often claimed that, based on their research, there were no instances of voter impersonation prosecuted in South Carolina, claiming that H.3003 was a solution in search of a problem. In my years in South Carolina politics I know quite the opposite to be true, as do opponents of this or other Voter I.D. legislation.

Understanding that there was an issue with ballot security in South Carolina and that the opportunity for fraud and abuse was obvious in our current system, I sought a solution.

I would love to be able to tell you that I originated the provisions of H.3003 myself, that presentation of a picture I.D. and the various safeguards for voter and ballots alike were my own. I did not originate the idea. However, I paid close attention to what the Indiana Legislature enacted and the reasons that they gave for taking such a step. I agreed in full with the Indiana rationale and believed that such a measure would be beneficial to safeguard elections in South Carolina. Therefore, I introduced H.3003 and did all that I could to ensure its passage through the South Carolina General Assembly.

I believe that the provisions of H.3003 are fair and justified and that the legislation seeks to balance the state's interest in having fair and secure elections and a citizen's absolute right to cast their ballot. If, for one moment, I believed that the provisions of H.3003 were designed to do anything other than assure fair and fraud-free elections, I would not have introduced the legislation.

If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Clemmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Clemmons