

**NIKKI HALEY RESPONSES  
TO CONSERVATION ISSUE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Strengthening Our State Agencies**

1. **What are your expectations for DHEC to protect the health of the public and the quality of our clean air and water?** Specifically, what qualifications are important for your appointments to the DHEC Board and what are your expectations for the Board?
  
2. **How do you prioritize natural resource agencies in the budget process?** DNR, Forestry, PRT and Agriculture manage state resources valued in the billions of dollars yet account for less than 1% of the state budget and now face 45-50% cuts to their core operations. Do the economic returns from tourism, recreation, farming and forestry justify greater support for these agencies and would you take steps to increase their budgets? *Yes. What many people fail to remember is that agriculture and tourism are the top two industries in South Carolina. Without a conserving the environment, those industries will suffer. I want our elected leaders to look at South Carolina as a business plan and that includes protecting our top two industries. As governor, I will push for zero-based budgeting for all state government agencies. With zero-based budgeting, DNR and other important agencies will start to receive the proper funding because wasteful spending will be eliminated.*
  
3. **How should South Carolina promote rural economic development?** Specifically, what qualifications are important for your Commerce appointment and would you encourage a new approach that values re-vitalization of sustainable farming and forestry? Would you support initiatives within the Department of Agriculture and the Forestry Commission to bring value-added manufacturing to boost jobs in those sectors?

**Protecting Our Land, Water and Air**

1. **How will you balance promoting economic growth for South Carolina with protecting the health of our communities?** Current law limits the amount of trash that an incinerator can burn to 600 tons per day and discourages the importation of northern garbage. Would you support enforcing this limit, even if raising it to 1600 tons would add 50 new jobs to a depressed rural county?
  
2. **What should be the goal of publicly funded land protection in South Carolina?** Would you support annual funding for the Conservation Bank from deed stamp revenues and the elimination of the “death clause” that now strips the Bank of all of its funding when state agencies are cut across the Board?
  
3. **Assuming that surface water permitting passes this year (S.452), what additional steps should South Carolina take to safeguard clean, abundant**

**water?** One out of every five of the state's municipal and private sewage treatment plants repeatedly violates federal water standards. Do you support stricter oversight and penalties for the facilities that repeatedly pollute our public waterways? What additional steps would you take to reduce mercury pollution?

**4. How would you help our metropolitan areas clean up their air before facing federal sanctions that could impact industries and motorists across the state?**

Do you agree that it costs less to clean up air pollution than to pay for increased health care costs? Would you support aggressive DHEC monitoring of the air in neighborhoods adjacent to our state ports and best management practices to reduce particulate pollution where measurements are above safe levels? *One of the simplest ways to help clean the air is to promote clean transportation. Our schools should be educating children on living healthy, conservation-friendly lifestyles, which includes walking, riding a bike or using public transportation instead of driving. It is also important to help cities revitalize downtown areas because it lessens the time individuals will have to spend in the car. Downtown Greenville is a great example of a city that brings people to an area where they can walk from place to place without having to use their car.*

### **South Carolina's Clean Energy Future**

**1. What can South Carolina do to adopt a comprehensive energy plan to make our state more competitive, clean up the environment, and create jobs?**

Would you support passage of a clean energy standard that makes energy efficiency our "first fuel" and promotes the development of in-state renewable resources such as offshore wind, biomass and solar?

**2. What steps would you take to reduce carbon pollution in South Carolina?**

With every major scientific body and our own Defense Department recognizing that climate change exists and is a threat to our national security and economy, what will you do as Governor to protect our way of life in the face of this threat?

**3. What is your long term vision of the role of the Savannah River Site in managing the nation's nuclear waste?**

What can South Carolina do to reduce the amount of high level waste that resulted from decades of military reprocessing? Are you concerned about bringing the nation's commercial nuclear waste to SRS for reprocessing/disposal? *It is crucial for South Carolina's future to be able to store our waste in Yucca Mountain. President Obama broke a contractual agreement in the name of Harry Reid's election and it is disgraceful that he would play political games with nuclear waste. I will fight the federal government to give South Carolina its rightful access to store waste in Yucca Mountain and also encourage our research institutions to develop new ways of dealing with nuclear waste.*