

**VINCENT SHEHEEN RESPONSES
TO CONSERVATION ISSUE QUESTIONNAIRE**

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 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?

Vincent Sheheen:

I believe that rural economic development promotion of our natural resources are inextricably linked. In the past, I have helped plan, fund, and enact the revitalization and promotion of the Cooper Black area in Sandhill's State Forest to promote field trial, equine, and other outdoor activities. These changes have helped bring thousands of tourist dollars into Chesterfield County and South Carolina. I have also been deeply involved on the preservation and promotion of the Battle of Camden revolutionary war site. This effort has preserved hundreds of acres of critical historical battlefield and is working toward national or state park status, and has already resulted in increased tourism activity on the site. Finally, with the help of Kershaw County's House member, I have supported the development of a successful farmers market in the Kershaw County area so that local farmers would have a place to sell local and regional produce.

As governor, I would like to build a partnership between the Commerce Department, Agricultural Secretary, PRT, Forestry, and the Department of Natural Resources to develop a comprehensive strategy for rural economic development. Any successful economic development strategy for our rural areas must include initiatives that bring value added manufacturing, farming, and tourism jobs.

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?

Vincent Sheheen:

I have supported and will continue to support funding for the Conservation Bank and elimination of the death clause.

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?

Vincent Sheheen:

South Carolina should create and adopt a comprehensive plan to create green jobs and conserve energy. As governor, I will bring together leaders from Santee Cooper, the Electric Co-ops, the investor owned utilities, state government, and the conservation community to

set goals for the creation of green jobs in alternative energy and the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation. We have taken a first step in the South Carolina General Assembly by passing S1096; a bill I cosponsored. This legislation focuses on energy efficiency, while creating jobs for renovation of homes and installation of new energy efficient appliances.