

A RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF A PROVISIO TO THE FY2017-2018 STATE BUDGET PROVIDING GRANT FUNDING TO THE CONESTEE FOUNDATION FOR STUDIES TO IMPROVE THE LAKE CONESTEE DAM.

WHEREAS, the Conestee Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the owner of Lake Conestee Nature Park, including the area known as Lake Conestee, and the historic Lake Conestee Dam located on the Reedy River; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation, founded in 2000, has demonstrated its stewardship of the over 400 acres now comprising Lake Conestee Nature Park, transforming formerly forgotten lands into a now beloved nature park and wildlife sanctuary that is a remarkable asset and tourism attraction of immense value to Greenville County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Greenville has supported the conservation, recreational, educational, and watershed protection programs of the Foundation since its beginning in the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has demonstrated creativity and resolve in its successful completion of a Voluntary Cleanup Contract with SCDHEC regarding the Lake Conestee site; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has made the community aware that the Lake Conestee Dam holds back millions of tons of contaminated sediments, which pose an imminent threat to downstream public interests; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has worked closely with SCDHEC to evaluate and address the condition and long-term care of the 125-year old Lake Conestee Dam, documenting that the dam is in poor and steadily deteriorating condition; and

WHEREAS, failure of the Lake Conestee Dam would release large amounts of toxic sediments into the Reedy River, with possible devastating impacts all along the Reedy River as far downstream as the public water supply at Lake Greenwood; and

WHEREAS, the Conestee Foundation proposes to cooperate with SCDHEC to conduct a dam engineering study to identify a Final Recommended Alternative for the Rehabilitation and/or Replacement of the Lake Conestee Dam.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Greenville County Council hereby offers its full support for the Conestee Foundation's efforts, and encourages the South Carolina General Assembly to adopt a budget proviso and appropriation request of \$185,000 to SCDHEC for a grant to be awarded to the Conestee Foundation for engineering studies necessary to support a strong, durable, safe and well-maintained Lake Conestee Dam.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2017.

Herman G. Kirven, Jr., Chairman
Greenville County Council

Theresa B. Kizer
Clerk to Council

Joseph M. Kernell
County Administrator