D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman August 4, 2015 SCAC 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Good Morning! Welcome to Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County! I am Paul Sommerville, Chairman of Beaufort County Council, and on behalf of my colleagues, all County elected officials, staff, and residents, I am delighted to welcome you to our beautiful home and the South Carolina Association of Counties' 48th Annual Conference. We are pleased and proud that the Association once again selected Hilton Head Island as its annual conference location and we hope that you enjoy the conference and all the great amenities that our area has to offer during your stay.

I always look forward to this event because as county officials, we are at the front line of what is impacting South Carolina. Regardless of geography or political affiliations, we all know what it means to govern and make tough choices, and the impact that our decisions have on our constituents. This conference provides us with a great opportunity to connect with each other for dialog and networking; learn about innovative county programs; and find out about issues impacting us all, with the common goal of creating and sustaining great places in South Carolina.

I hope we all make the most of this opportunity to come together, with outcomes reflected in our good work for all the counties and citizens of South Carolina.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Michael Cone and his team at the Association for all the care they put into organizing this conference for us every year, and all the great work they do for us on a daily basis. Let's give them a round of applause.

Again, thank you all and welcome to Beaufort County. Please enjoy the conference.