D. Paul Sommerville South Carolina Association of Probate Judges 2016 Fall Conference October 3, 2016 Sonesta Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC

Good morning! I am Paul Sommerville, Chairman of Beaufort County Council and on behalf of my colleagues, we are honored to welcome you to your 2016 fall conference and to our beautiful home and an extraordinary corner of the South Carolina Lowcountry. We hope you enjoy your time of learning, socializing, networking, and building upon the professional and personal relationships that play such a vital role in strengthening your role in our community.

I am pleased that Judge Kenneth Fulp invited me to make a few opening remarks to you and want to take this opportunity to especially thank him for his service to Beaufort County as our Probate Judge.

The Probate Judge is truly a gift of the people, dealing with a number of important life issues and touching persons from birth to death. You strive to support our communities by protecting the rights, personal information and property of our neighbors, and by helping those who are unable to protect themselves. Like you, we are proud to represent the people of our community. We are also proud of what we have to offer you during your stay in the way of culture and history, nature and recreation, and arts and entertainment. We also have great restaurants with the best in local cuisine. I encourage each of you to take advantage of the many opportunities to enjoy yourselves here.

Again, welcome and thank you for selecting Hilton Head Island as the destination for your conference. I extend to each of you my sincere wishes for a productive, memorable and wonderful visit. Thank you.