Dear Beaufort County Administrator and Members of County Council,

On behalf of the Daufuskie Island Council, I ask Beaufort County to immediately freeze the procurement process for Daufuskie Island Terminal Management (RFP 122226).

The County issued this RFP without consulting the Daufuskie Island Council. Excluding the island's elected representatives from a decision of this consequence was a grievous oversight. Melrose Landing is where residents meet family, collect groceries, and get assistance when they step off the ferry. It is also where many island businesses meet their customers. After the disruption our community experienced during the public ferry contract transition, we expected the County to draw on that firsthand knowledge before asking firms to submit proposals.

We are concerned that a contract like this could end up in the wrong hands and subject our community to the abuses we suffered at the hands of the previous owner. Our preference would be that the position be filled by a county employee. We are also concerned that the RFP excludes our public boat ramp. We have an ongoing problem with abandoned vehicles taking up parking spaces and boaters routinely ignore docking rules including posted time limits. We have no way of enforcing any of the posted rules. This could be done by a county employee.

We also ask the County to appoint a Daufuskie resident nominated by the Island Council as a full scoring member of the selection committee, subject to the same conflict-of-interest and confidentiality requirements as every other evaluator. Please tell us whether the committee has been appointed, who has appointment authority, and who serves as chair and members. If County policy restricts scoring membership to staff, please identify the applicable provision and provide a formal advisory role for the Island Council's nominee.

Today is a very special day in the life of our community. This afternoon, hundreds of island residents will gather at the public boat landing to celebrate Thanksgiving. We also gather to remember Pat Beichler, who started our community farm. Pat passed away last evening at 87. Her legacy will continue. We also celebrate and lift up Sallie Ann Robinson who was featured this morning on CBS Sunday morning. Our community has a lot to be thankful for. Thank you for making county ownership of Melrose Landing a reality. We hope to celebrate next Thanksgiving at our new community center.
Sincerely,

Michael Hubbard Chair,
Daufuskie Island Council
20 Toby Place
Daufuskie Island, SC 29915
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