

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE GOVERNMENT
OF ARUBA**

The Government of South Carolina and the Government of Aruba, hereinafter referred to as the Signatories;

Convinced of the need to increase cooperation and strengthen trade relations between South Carolina and Aruba;

Convinced that the geopolitical position of Aruba, unique socio-economic resources, sea and air routes, and good relations with the Caribbean and Latin American continent could provide good market access for South Carolina to the Caribbean and Latin American region;

Considering that the Government of South Carolina and the Government of Aruba share the goal to set a proper balance between the vital dimensions of quality of life while seeking to achieve sustained economic growth;

HAVE DECIDED:

**Paragraph I
Purpose**

The Signatories have decided to strengthen their ties on the principles of reciprocity, mutual benefit and cooperation.

**Paragraph II
Areas of Cooperation**

The Signatories intend to promote cooperation between South Carolina and Aruba in the following areas:

- economic and trade development;
- cruise port development and balance;
- renewable energy;
- academic, scientific, educational and cultural cooperation;
- tourism and hospitality;

Any other areas to be mutually identified by the Signatories.

**Paragraph III
Institutional Cooperation**

The Signatories propose to establish working groups to study and submit specific actions in the areas mentioned in Paragraph II.

Paragraph IV
Final Terms

Any costs incurred by the Signatories to carry out the cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the decisions of their governing bodies, based on the availability of funds and on the norms, rules and regulations pertaining to budgetary and financial matters.

The cooperation outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding is to commence upon the date of signature.

Signed this 27th day of October, 2014 in the City of Columbia in two original copies.

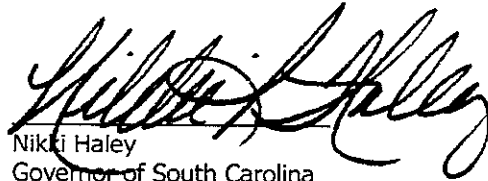
In witness whereof

For the Government of Aruba,

For the Government of South Carolina,



Michiel G. Eman
Prime Minister of Aruba



Nikki Haley
Governor of South Carolina

September 30th, 2014

Dear Governor Haley,

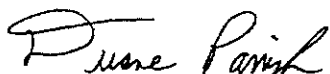
I am writing this letter to express my full support for the proposed State-to-State (Sister State) agreement currently being discussed between South Carolina and the island nation of Aruba. I believe that this agreement, and the potential subsequent relationship with Aruba, would provide mutually-beneficial opportunities to share tourism-related best practices and industry knowledge between our state and other areas in the world in which tourism is a primary economic driver. It would also provide an opportunity to extend our reach to new markets to attract new visitors to the Palmetto State.

Aruba attracts more than 1.5 million tourists per year, the majority of which originate from the U.S. and are serviced exclusively through their airport and cruise port. Tourism accounts for approximately 70% of their total economic activity, and recent tourism growth has accelerated expansion in other sectors of economic activity. This creates, not only an opportunity for tourism expansion in our state, but also additional opportunities for potential trade partnerships through non-tourism commercial activity. In addition, since English is one of the primary languages spoken on the island, this reduces any communication difficulties that may arise due to language barriers.

Through a State-to-State agreement, South Carolina's tourism industry can more closely interact with business leaders in Aruba's coastal destinations and explore new tourism development concepts that have proven effective in similar markets. This may prove to be especially beneficial to our state's budding sports tourism and nature-based tourism markets. Building stronger relationships in the southern Caribbean will, ultimately, open up new markets for our state's destinations and provide greater collaborative opportunities to maximize revenue from travel and tourism while also improving the quality of life for our respective citizens.

I believe that creating a partnership in the southern Caribbean with Aruba will potentially provide a unique economic benefit to our state and, therefore, I support the proposed Sister State agreement between South Carolina and Aruba.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Duane Parrish".

Duane Parrish
Director
South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

James I. Newsome, III
President and Chief Executive Officer



176 Concord Street
P.O.Box 22287
Charleston, SC 29413 USA
(843) 577-8608

October 3, 2014

scspa.com

Dear Governor Haley,

I would like to offer my support for the proposed State to State (Sister State) agreement currently being discussed between South Carolina and the island nation of Aruba. As the CEO of the South Carolina Ports Authority, I believe that the sharing of knowledge, best practices, and possible resources would be a great opportunity for us to improve efficiencies and global effectiveness for commerce in South Carolina.

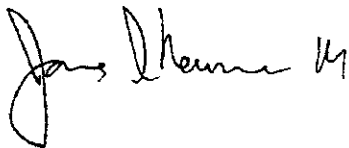
The Aruba Ports Authority has experienced success in their efforts to attract passenger vessels to their country and is embarking on a plan to improve their cruise facility.

The South Carolina Ports authority continuously seeks ways to further commerce in South Carolina and has identified diversification of our cargo base as a key tool to success. I believe there is benefit to collaborating with Aruba to explore innovative ideas and opportunities in multiple areas.

Creating a partnership in the southern Caribbean with Aruba may also open up partnerships for research and education that would otherwise go unexplored.

Please join me in supporting the proposed State to State (Sister State) agreement between South Carolina and Aruba.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James I. Newsome III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "N".

James I. Newsome, III