



Grassroots in Action – Week of March 9

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Here are the issues for you to work this week. Remember if you email your Representative or Senator, be sure to include “CONSTITUENT” in the subject line of your message. Visit [www.scfb.org/advocacy/grassroots-action](http://www.scfb.org/advocacy/grassroots-action) to find your Legislators and their contact information.

Issue 1: H. 5306 Agriculture Property Protection Act

Would protect farmland from urban sprawl by eliminating the setback from a residence newly built on an adjoining property of an established farm that is already subject to setbacks

Talking Points:

- Prioritizes the use and protection of agricultural property
- This bill is a common-sense approach to fairly managing and protecting farmland and property-owners' rights. It ensures that all parties respect setbacks while preventing burdensome, over-regulation from being placed on a single party.
- As SC continues to grow, more and more people are moving into rural areas. As people move closer to farms, required environmental setbacks limit how a farmer can use his land, which does not seem fair when the farm was there first.
- All setbacks currently required under law still apply, but a farmer wouldn't be subjected to additional setbacks as a result of new construction
- Most importantly, H. 5306 protects rural South Carolina economies that are fueled by agriculture.

Issue 2: Natural Disaster Resiliency Fund

Created to help in recovery after natural disasters, this fund will be available for multiple uses, as well as agriculture. It is a general relief fund, not one specific to agriculture. \$50 million has been appropriated to this fund (\$25M nonrecurring; \$25M previously designated for the SC Farm Aid Fund)

Talking points:

- It is important that a structure is established that allows agriculture to access relief funding in the event of a natural disaster.
- Thank you for your response in proposing the Natural Disaster Resiliency Fund that would provide relief funding to a wide range of impacted parties.
- It is our top priority to ensure that there is a structure in place that ensures the agricultural community has access to this essential safety net in times of disaster.
- Thank you for your efforts to provide a timely response to this important issue and we look forward to working with you closely to continue to move this bill forward.