

**From:** SC House Republican Caucus

**Date:** Mon, 26 Jan 2009 09:04:37 -0500

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**Subject:** Forwarded email from Speaker Harrell

Caucus Members, Speaker Harrell asked me to forward the following email to you all. Please see below:

-Charles

The following article was in the Greenville News on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20090124/NEWS01/90124010>

The following is a letter I sent to the reporter who wrote the article.

Bobby

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**From:** Bobby Harrell  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 24, 2009 11:45 AM  
**To:** '[ddykes@greenvillenews.com](mailto:ddykes@greenvillenews.com)'  
**Cc:** 'GREG FOSTER'; '[bpadgett@greenvillenews.com](mailto:bpadgett@greenvillenews.com)'  
**Subject:** Article today in the Greenville News

David,

As always, everything about the budget I am stating in this email can be verified by calling the source of this information, the State Budget Office. The director's name is Les Boles. I don't mind you quoting me in articles, but I would rather you not say that this statistical information represents "claims" that I have made, because I am simply passing it on to you from the original source. Instead, you should ask the state budget office so you can say, as you did at the beginning of this article, that these are statistics or information the Greenville News has obtained. That is why I am always careful to give you the source of the information, instead of making the statement without the documentation of the source.

You left out one very important fact in your story today, that I gave to the Greenville News from information I obtained from the State Budget Office. Just last year, the Governor submitted to the General Assembly the biggest budget ever submitted to a General Assembly by a Governor in our state's history. His budget was over \$7.5 Billion. The General Assembly passed a budget that was \$61,000,000 LESS than the Governor submitted. I don't agree with his numbers, but if you use his methodology as described in your article, and the General Assembly had simply adopted his budget, state government would have grown by more than his claims, in fact by \$61 Million more at his request.

He will almost certainly have an excuse for having submitted such a large executive budget, but that misses the point. Regardless of any reason imaginable that he may give, why did he feel the need to submit such a large executive budget request to the General Assembly if he really believes growth has occurred as he claims?

He exaggerates the numbers and then refuses to accept any responsibility, even though his executive budget is higher than what the General Assembly passed. The reason I have challenged him to submit a budget that reflects a 40% cut from the growth he claims, is because his history is to submit a large executive budget, and then be shocked that the General Assembly passed a budget that he claims grew government. If he really believes government has grown like that, why won't he submit a budget that cuts out the 40%? The reason is these claims are really just rhetoric. He should put up a budget that backs up his overgrowth claims or admit that he cannot.

There really is no need to argue over whether his numbers are right. He should simply back up his rhetoric with an executive budget that eliminates the growth he claims.

His real disagreement is not in the amount of money spent, as evidenced by the size of his executive budgets, but rather in the way the money is spent. For instance, his executive budget called for \$50 million to be set aside so that public money would be used to buy private land in the state for conservation purposes. The General Assembly refused to do that, instead spending money on the priorities of public education, which is not a major concern of Governor Sanford, and on health care instead.

This combination of attacking, blaming others, and refusing to accept any responsibility for problems, is evidenced by the way he is refusing to accept any responsibility for South Carolina's highest unemployment rate in decades, and instead is attacking the Employment Security Commission and others over the unemployment rate; Carroll Campbell would have been focused on the unemployment rate like a laser beam, and solved the problem instead of blaming other people for it.

If you have this conversation with the Governor's office and they say or claim something I should know, please contact me.

Bobby