Dear Representative/Senator [LAST NAME],

I am writing today to voice my strong opposition to the removal of any historical monuments in the State of South Carolina. Recent polling has shown that I am not alone. According to a recent Pulse Opinion Research poll of likely South Carolina Republican voters, 85 percent oppose monument removal.

Many historical monuments were gifts to local governments by citizens and widows. Many are also multi-million dollar works of art. At a time when younger generations lack an understanding of our nation’s history you must not give in to extremist elements. Please do not reward mob-rule and the actions of vandals. It is time to draw a line in the sand and proudly say **“NO MONUMENT REMOVALS”.**

In addition, many extremist groups have called for “contextual” plaques to be placed by monuments. While I support sharing history, many past proposals amount to highly politicized editorials rather than history. Let’s stick to the facts and let South Carolinians make up their own minds. Here are my questions:

1. Will you support budget provisos withholding funds from local governments that remove historical monuments?
2. Will you co-sponsor HB 3749 (Long) which requires all historical plaques to be approved by the Department of History and Archives to ensure historical accuracy and that the statements are free of opinion.
3. Will you support legislation creating mandatory prison sentences for those who vandalize any monument?
4. Will you support HB 3632/SB 513 (Loftis/Verdin) which requires illegally torn down monuments to be put back up and allows historical groups to sue cities that fail to protect monuments?

Please no non-committal boilerplate reply: “Thank you for your comments. I’ll take them into consideration”. This is not a new issue.

Regards,

[YOUR NAME]