



Gullah Geechee Leadership Institute
Leadership & Advocacy

February 16,
2021

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

●
**Bishop F.
C. James,**

AME Church,
SC

●
**Dr.
Donald
Greene,**

Baptist
Educational
& Missionary
Convention of
SC

●
20 NAACP

(See list)

We, the undersigned, send this open letter to the South Carolina General Assembly because we are disappointed with the management of Santee Cooper in its present form. In the words of Senator Hugh Leatherman of Florence and Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, “I see no choice but to divest the state of what is increasingly not an asset but an albatross”.

Santee Cooper is known for over a decade’s worth of missteps, debt and failed projects that have cost ratepayers billions of dollars. Their blunders and mistakes are numerous, and we have waited years for solutions and resolutions that never happened.

Because of the debacle of the failed VC Summer Nuclear Plant in Fairfield County and the enormous mismanagement practices, Santee Cooper is nearly \$7 billion in debt.

There is the failed Pee Dee Coal Plant near Florence that ratepayers are having to pay for because Santee Cooper abandoned the project in 2009 after spending \$362 million on equipment, thousands of acres of land and materials on the site and upkeep costs millions every year.

Finally, there is the matter of diversity and inclusion. Santee Cooper’s claim of 21% minority representation on its executive staff is not a true representation of our state’s population. Procurement opportunities are questionable for minority businesses.

We understand that NextEra Energy, the largest green, renewable energy company in the USA with a proven track record of diversity, inclusion and community investment has offered a bid to purchase. Therefore, we urge the General Assembly to sell Santee Cooper.

**NAACP
Branches**

Anderson Branch NAACP
Dominic Gibbs, President

Western York Branch
Steve Love, Board Member

Bamberg County NAACP
Dr. Gerald Wright, President

Georgetown Branch NAACP
Marvin Neal, President

Batesburg/Leesville NAACP
R. O. Levy, President

Greenville Branch NAACP
Rev. J. Flemming, President

Camden/Kershaw NAACP
Kenneth Carter, President

Laurens County NAACP
Rev. David Kennedy, President

Chesterfield Branch NAACP
James Barber, President

Manning Branch NAACP
Bobby Fleming, President

Clarendon County Branch NAACP
Willie Briggs, President

North Charleston Branch
Phillip Scott, President

Colleton County Branch NAACP
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Orangeburg Branch NAACP
Barbara Johnson-Williams,
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Columbia Branch NAACP
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Ural Bennett, President

Florence Branch NAACP
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Michael Brown, President

Darlington Branch
Anthony Hall, President

West Spartanburg NAACP
Rev. Eddie Parks, President



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