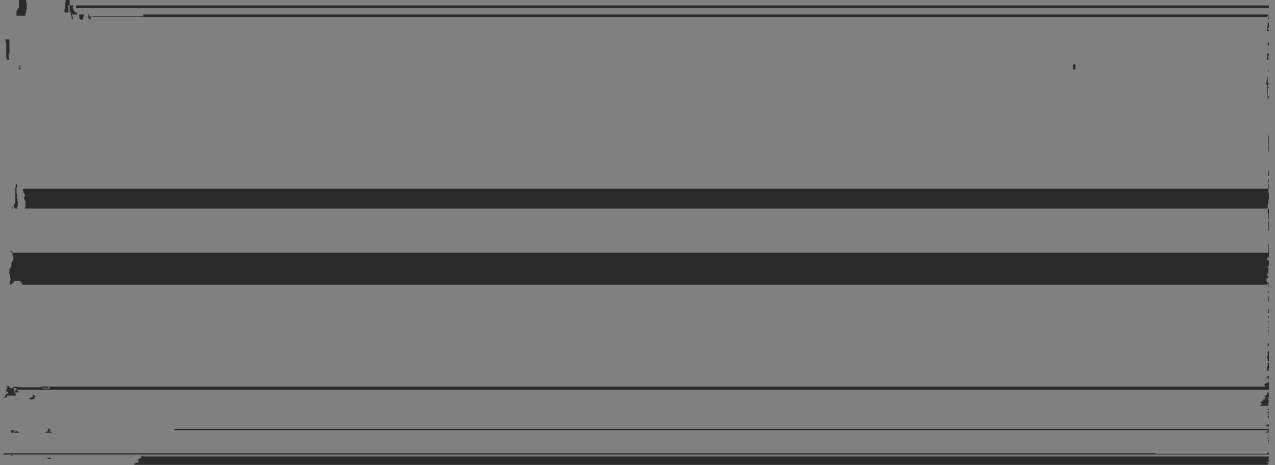


ALAN WILSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 7, 2024

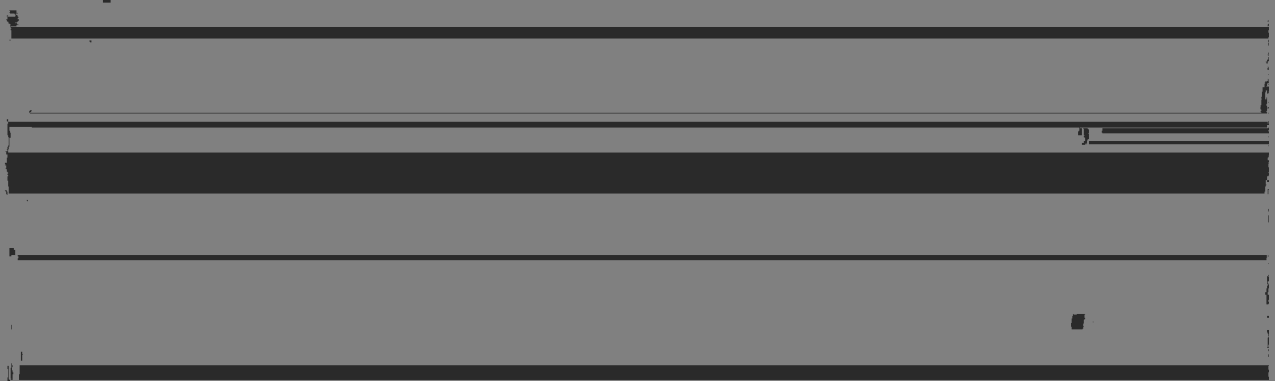
Adam J. Neil, Esq.  
Deputy Director  
Tax Policy Services  
South Carolina Department of Revenue



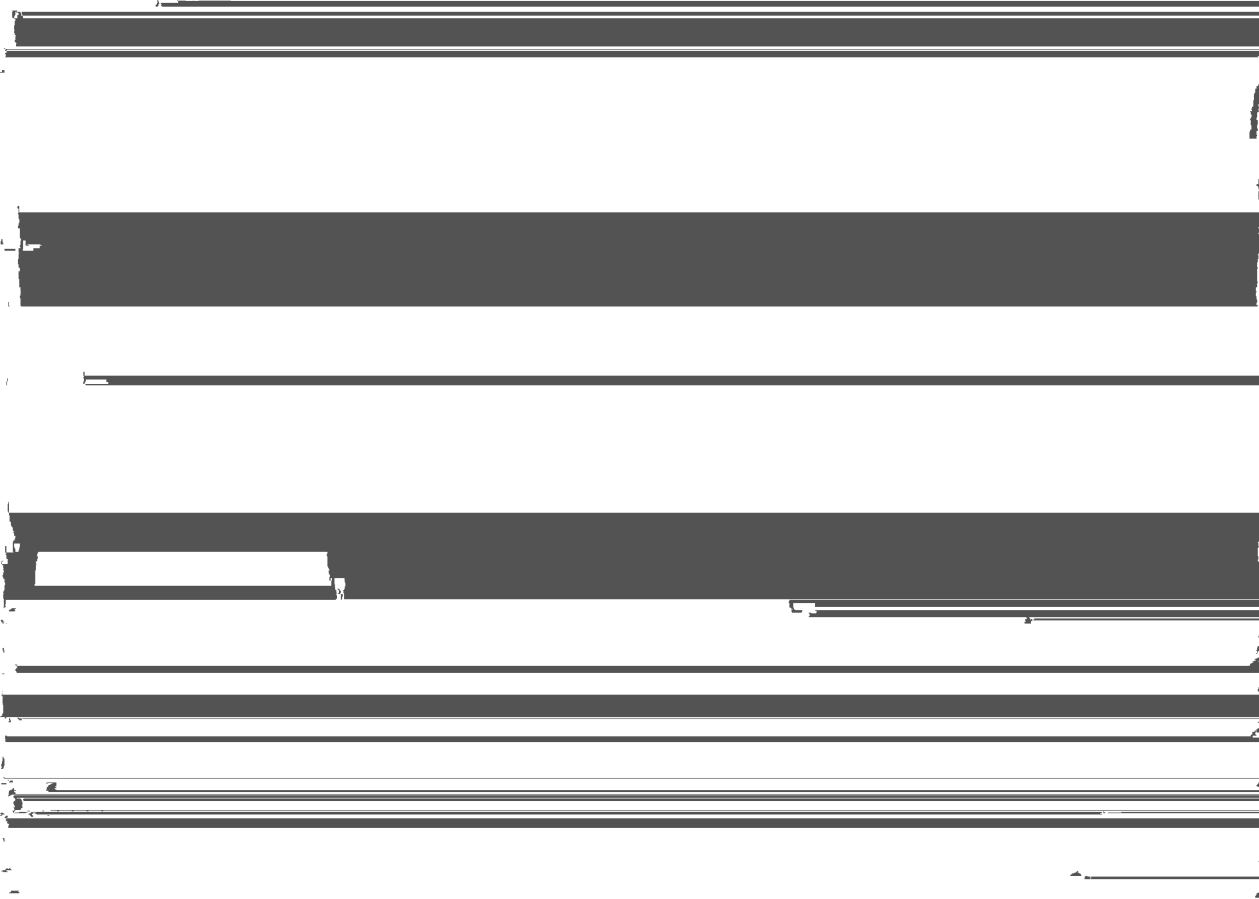
P.O. Box 125  
Columbia, South Carolina 29214-0575

Dear Mr. Neil:

We received your letter requesting an opinion concerning the application of the Infrastructure Maintenance Fee ("IME") to trailers. In your letter, you requested:



In order to account for the necessary road maintenance caused by each item  
~~travelling the roads of this State, in addition to the registration fee is~~ 11



this chapter, the owner or lessee of each vehicle or other item that is required to  
be registered pursuant to this chapter must pay an infrastructure maintenance  
fee upon first titling or registering the vehicle or other item. Also, the owner or



Employing the rules of statutory interpretation, we find your revised interpretation is reasonable.

~~Upon review of the statute governing the DMV, 11-1-101, we find your revised interpretation is reasonable.~~

[REDACTED]

hire.” Therefore, we believe the meaning of such a phrase must be determined using the rules of

[REDACTED]

Id.

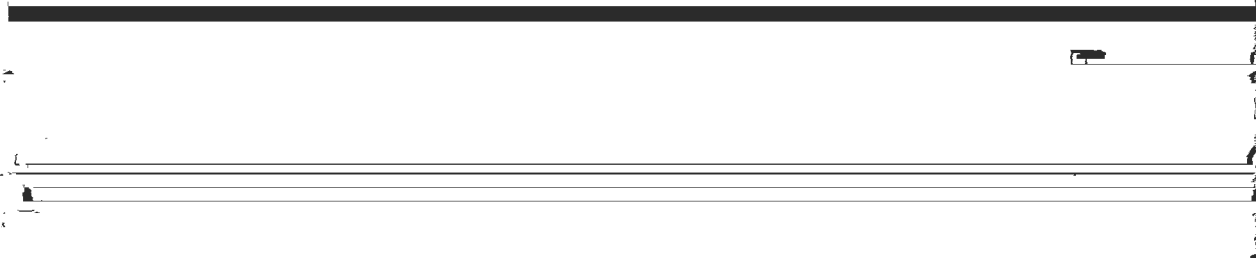
[REDACTED]

of Health & Env't Control, 411 S.C., 16, 34, 766 S.E.2d 707, 718 (2014) (quoting S.C. Coastal Conservation League v. S.C. Dept of Health & Env't Control, 363 S.C. 67, 75, 610 S.E.2d 482, 486 (2005)). In this case, the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles ("SCDMV") is the administrative agency entrusted to determine what vehicles must be registered and therefore, what

[REDACTED]

reasonable, we generally defer to the SCDMV and its interpretation of the meaning "for hire" as

and therefore not subject to the IMF under section 56-3-627 of the South Carolina Code. While



Cydney Milling

Assistant Attorney General

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Robert D. Cook  
Solicitor General