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Graham claims unity necessary in future  
Getting new federal funds a concern

By Zane Wilson - The Sun News

COLUMBIA --The community will have to be united on any new airport projects to get the backing of the state's federal delegation, Sen. Lindsey Graham said Friday.

Graham, R-Seneca, said he was disappointed the project has apparently failed. It is one section of the triangle he believes is essential for the future of the state's economy.

The other two sections are Interstate 73 and an international trade center in Myrtle Beach.

The \$43 million in federal money for the new terminal "was a significant acquisition by our congressional delegation," and the airport will lose it now, Graham said.

"We'll literally have to start over again, and that will be difficult," he said. "The way forward is going to be harder, but I'm committed to the way forward."

If there is another terminal funding request, "I'm going to ask that we have complete buy-in," he said. "I thought we did have buy-in," but that turned out not to be the case.

"I do hope the community can find some common ground because the need is real," Graham said.

U.S. 1st District Rep. Henry Brown, R-Hanahan, said he hopes the failure of the project "won't be a consideration" if the county asks for more airport money later, or for any other project.

He said he will work for federal funds for another project if asked, but he is not sure what the response will be.

State Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Murrells Inlet, said it is a local matter and he does not think it will affect the legislative delegation's efforts to get money for such projects, though others in state government might have doubts.

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