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**Date:** 3/5/2014 11:28:29 AM  
**Subject:** Points for Rep Bingham

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He's free to offer whatever commentary/insights he'd like, but for context's sake, the event will:

- ☐ Thank Rep. Bingham and the Ways and Means Committee for supporting the K-12 initiative in their budget.
- ☐ Ask the Senate to continue the momentum as they begin their subcommittee deliberations.
- ☐ Note that Sen. Peeler got "Read to Succeed" placed on Special Order yesterday, and ask the Senate to pass that as soon as possible, as well.
- ☐ Issue a proclamation declaring this "March into Literacy Month" in South Carolina.

So a few points for his consideration:

- ☐ The Governor's recommendations in the budget and her K-12 initiative are the product of a year-long process that was open and inclusive. These proposals reflect the input of members of the General Assembly from both houses and from both parties.
- ☐ (Offer an anecdote of something he either learned during or appreciated about that process.)
- ☐ The Ways and Means Committee's budget followed-through on those recommendations:
  - Use the EOC's funding formula to target money for students in poverty and those who need individualized instruction.
  - Put state-funded reading coaches in the elementary schools where students aren't making the grade on standardized tests.
  - Almost \$30 million more for technology, for bandwidth, networking, and computer equipment.
  - An increase for charter schools, to accommodate enrollment increases, provide about 12% more per-student, and use \$4 million in one-time money for the Revolving Loan Facility Program, to improve charter facilities.
- ☐ I've talked to folks in my district about these proposals, and they're excited. From the superintendents, to the teachers, to the parents.
  - In Lexington 2, this means over \$425,000 in additional funds for technology next year. It also means 100% state-funded reading coaches in 5 elementary schools, and half-funded coaches in the other 2. That's going to have a positive impact for our kids.
- ☐ We'll be on the floor with the budget in the House next week, and I expect that we're going to send a budget to the Senate that's going to include these reforms. I hope they follow-through and get this initiative to the finish line.
- ☐ (Add a story or observation about literacy / importance of reading.)

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