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Mr. Chairman,
We look forward to seeing you today. Below are possible highlights.
Please let me know if you need anything else.
Thank you,
Katherine

- The General Assembly made reforms to both the tax and benefit systems during 2010 and 2011 to put the fund on a path to repay all loans by November 2015. This included:
- A reduction in the maximum weeks of unemployment from 26 weeks to 20 weeks.
 - An increase in the penalties for misconduct and being fired for cause.
 - An update to the tax system to provide for equitable distribution based on the usage of the unemployment system.

It is estimated that South Carolina saved over \$13 million dollars in interest payments by making early and voluntary loan payments. All money that remains in the trust fund is required, by federal law, to be used to make benefit payments to eligible individuals. Savings from early repayments will help to increase the balance in the Trust Fund which can help to lower state unemployment taxes. The savings are a result of an improving economy, a revitalized SC business climate, SC employers putting people back to work, and a fraud prevention unit at DEW continually seeking out those who try to abuse the system.

- Several factors have helped to ensure the state met its goal of paying off the loan early:
- The pro-business climate that the state offers.
 - The creation of thousands of new jobs since the end of the Great Recession.
 - The hard work our state employees at DEW and partner agencies have done to reduce waste, combat fraud, improve customer service, and help match job-seekers with employers.

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