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Dorothy M. Levy, Clerk to County Council

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of the citizens of Clarendon County and the Great State of South Carolina, I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully request your thoughtful reconsideration of a matter that is of utmost importance to the future viability of our region.

Recent catastrophic events have precipitated the need for prudent deliberation and careful scrutiny of all resources available for the recovery of our community.

As you are well aware, agriculture is extremely important to our state. Together with forestry, it is our #1 industry with a total economic impact of over 40 billion dollars a year. As of 2013, agribusiness accounts for over 212,000 jobs in South Carolina.

As a result of the recent unprecedented flooding, our farmers have suffered devastating losses that could result in wide spread foreclosure. Agriculture is facing a direct crop loss of \$376 million and a \$588 million total impact on the state's economy.

In anticipation of pending HUD allocations, please consider all options that become available to the citizens of our great state. It is my understanding that Congress has or will appropriate funding for flood relief. While I applaud your decision to provide relief to homeowners, I would also encourage you to consider the plight of the farmer and release any additional money to agriculture so that farmers can survive this act of nature and help to sustain our economy.

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Thank you for your sagacious leadership and contemplation of this very worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely,



Dwight L. Stewart, Jr., Chairman
Clarendon County Council



cc: Clarendon County Legislative Delegation Members
Clarendon County Council Members
Mr. David W. Epperson, County Administrator
Mr. Harry Ott, South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation President, CEO
The Honorable Hugh E. Weathers, SC Department of Agriculture, Commissioner