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January 15, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear The Honorable Nikki R. Haley:

I am a long time resident of our great state of South Carolina, a constituent that voted for you and an ardent conservative. My district (represented by Mick Mulvaney) is also a very conservative district. In large part, we are very disappointed with the way our federal government is being managed, our Constitutionally protected rights systematically being chipped away and the overreach by the federal government and court system outside what the Constitution says it has authority to do. In general, my family has been pleased with the state of South Carolina and I believe that we are at least generally heading in a good direction.

I was pleased to see my governor was chosen to give the Republican response to the state of the union address. However, I felt that it was not the place to criticize the GOP front runner and potential nomination for President of the United States. It smelled of establishment involvement which is, in my opinion, what the base is trying to rebuke. I have heard rumors that you cooperated with the establishment for a potential vice president or cabinet position. Although, I think you would seem to make a good cabinet member (you have done well for us while in office), I didn't feel that it helped the GOP cause by your remarks. It seems calculated to get you into the spotlight. The fact that the current administration applauded your statements says it all.

I am very disappointed and I disapprove of what you are doing and I don't think the Governor of our great state should be acting like this. I am asking you to refrain from criticism of any of the GOP candidates until after the election, if at all. Nothing good for the party can come of it and it makes you look like you are pandering to the establishment in return for political favors. This is not the conservative way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark and Kim Poulton". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark and Kim Poulton