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Subject: Press Conference
Location: 1st Floor Lobby, Statehouse
When: 3/19/2015 10:00:00 AM - 10:20:00 AM

Background

- Energy Solutions, a Utah-based company is currently under contract to administer the Barnwell Low Level Nuclear Waste (LLNW) facility in South Carolina.
- Since the 1960's, South Carolina has received LLNW and by the 1970's, Barnwell was the only LLNW facility east of the Mississippi River.
- In 1995, SC left the Southeast Compact and in 2000, South Carolina joined an Atlantic Compact with Connecticut and New Jersey, closing the site to LLNW from anywhere else.
- The site has been receiving significantly less waste every year, and the fees charged to customers is insufficient to cover current operating costs, leading to the depletion of one of three funds that covers the site, the Barnwell Operations Shortfall Account.
- This account was established in 2010 at \$14.5 million, but a one-time transfer of \$9.4 million that was used, among other things, to cover the Yucca lawsuit, that fund will be depleted soon.

Energy Solutions

- Energy Solutions is looking to prolong the life of the site (which is 95% full) until closer to its targeted 2038 decommissioning date. To do this, it wants to open-up the compact to outside waste.
- This will hasten closure by taking in more waste, but will also generate more operating revenues until the site is full.
- There is another fund, the Extended Care Management Fund, that has almost \$150 million in it, but state law prohibits transferring those funds to the operating account, and doing so would compromise the ability to perpetually care for the site.
- In 2014, NH met with Energy Solutions CEO about this issue and James and Josh met with their lobbying team in February (Tony Denny) about this.
- A Texas-based company that competes with Energy Solutions has retained Katon Dawson to represent their interests in South Carolina in opposition to this expansion.
- It's possible that Energy Solutions is stirring this up to either (A) get the state to appropriate more money to the operating account or (B) get access to the Extended Care Management Fund for the same purpose.

Talking Points

- What we have here is an outside company that wants to open up South Carolina to waste just to protect their bottom line.

- What's so sad is that there's not big money here – they're trying to turn our state into a dumping ground for nuclear waste over hundreds of thousands or a couple million dollars. It's not worth it.
- This plan isn't to open up the site to take lower level waste, it's to take higher level waste than we do now. We closed this site to most states in 2000, and it needs to stay closed.
- I get that these are jobs in a community that needs them, and we have enjoyed a relationship with Chem-Nuclear and Energy solutions, but the most jobs being created by this right now are for lobbyists. Energy Solutions has 5 registered in this state; that should tell you that they know the people aren't for this.