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Date: 2/6/2013 1:44:02 PM
Subject: FW: More Background: Gov. Nikki Haley and rural S.C.

From: Godfrey, Rob
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 1:57 PM
Subject: More Background: Gov. Nikki Haley and rural S.C.

Orangeburg Times and Democrat: Development in rural areas should be stressed
http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/article_832599d8-57fb-11e0-aef7-001cc4c03286.html

All in all, though, there is no reason Orangeburg and other rural counties in our region cannot be out front in attracting the development that is so needed. We welcome Gov. Haley's commitment.

Associated Press: Haley: "We're going to change the face of rural S.C."

SEANNA ADCOX – March 7, 2011

NEWBERRY, S.C. (AP) - Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday that rural South Carolina can recruit businesses if leaders work to beautify their downtown areas, upgrade road and sewer services and get the word out about their communities. "We're going to change the face of rural South Carolina," Haley told more than 170 people gathered at the 21st annual South Carolina Rural Summit. "It is now going to become those lucky little gems that people didn't know we had because we're going to shine a light on it." ...

The State: Scope: Haley's overdue education conversation

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/01/20/2595484/scope-haleys-overdue-education.html>

So rural schools need more, and they have less. We send extra state money to those schools, but it's not enough to make up for the difference. That is the issue of the school equity lawsuit that has been languishing in our courts for two decades. Some legislators say they want to fix this, but as soon as people start putting numbers on paper, the conversation breaks down.

No governor I've known has forced this issue. No governor has said, my kids go to great public schools, "but let's be honest in this conversation: What I'm describing is not what schools are like in all parts of our state."

Gov. Haley talked to editorial writers at length about the state's "obligation" to provide for kids in poor districts, about how "we can't say with an honest heart" that funding schools through property taxes is good enough.

She recalled that when she went to Bamberg to give her anti-bullying speech, "they couldn't even play my video" because they didn't have the equipment.

"At some point, you have to say, 'They don't deserve to be walking through puddles of water,'" she said of children attending schools in South Carolina's Corridor of Shame.

Post and Courier (Editorial): Haley's Paris payoff for S.C.

Sunday, December 4, 2011

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/dec/04/haleys-paris-payoff-for-sc/>

Note: Creating jobs is a tough sell, but Gov. Haley and the Commerce Department have delivered. Even more impressive is bringing jobs to rural counties with traditionally high rates of unemployment.

The (Sumter) Item: Haley: Sumter County a 'star' for growth and manufacturing

BY NICK MCCORMAC nmccormac@theitem.com

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/haley-sumter-county-a-star-for-growth-and-manufacturing/article_fc39fd7e-7c55-56e4-9903-4c0a59b45e88.html

That's why when new businesses look to South Carolina for new facilities, Haley said she encourages them to set their sights on the state's rural areas and works to help those regions thrive.

"When new companies come in, they're very quick to want to go to Greenville and Charleston. And I'm very quick to say, 'Look at this area. Have you looked at Jasper? Have you looked at Denmark? Have you looked at Sumter? Look at these other areas.' And now all of the sudden they see a whole

new side of economic development," she said.

More development in rural counties can be achieved through improved infrastructure and a renewed focus on education. The governor said she plans to allocate more money for road improvements as part of her next executive budget and is pushing for more vocational training and specialty education.

"If my goal is to bring businesses to rural areas, then we have to understand education has to be a part of those rural areas," said Haley following her tour of Caterpillar. She suggested letting high school students receive specialty certification in an effort to get a jump start on future employment.

"They're great jobs, and they don't require a four-year degree," she continued, "and we've got a lot of people who want jobs that can fill those, but it's now moving that focus to how can we get the students in line with the workforce in line with the companies."

Associated Press: Haley hosting legislators for education talk

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Pahyesl7

Gov. Nikki Haley is hosting legislators at the Governor's Mansion to discuss education funding reform. The governor invited Republican and Democratic leaders to a discussion over breakfast Wednesday that is closed to the public. Her office did not release a list of who's invited.

Note: Haley said she wanted to start a conversation on how to help poor rural districts without taking money from other districts. She's given no direction on how to do that but wants to make it a priority. Conversations on overhauling education funding formulas started decades ago. But legislators have applauded Haley for reaching out and getting involved.

Aiken Standard: Gov. Haley hosting Aiken summit with goal of improving communities

www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130131/AIK0101/130139913/1004/gov-haley-hosting-aiken-summit-with-goal-of-improving-communities

Melissa Hanna

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley will visit Aiken in March to present a program that will challenge attendees to improve local communities. Haley and the S.C. Department of Commerce will host rural and economic development leaders from across the state in Aiken for the 23rd annual South Carolina Rural Summit. The summit will be held at the Aiken Municipal Center, 214 Park Ave. S.E., on March 4 at 8:30 a.m. "Rural communities across our state play an important role in South Carolina's economic success," Haley said. "The rural summit provides a chance for local leaders to come together and share ideas about how to make their communities more competitive in attracting investment."

WACH: Gov. Haley focusing on supporting tourism in rural areas

<http://www.midlandsconnect.com/m/news/story?id=854417#.URFPg2fFzdV>

Gov. Nikki Haley spoke at the 2013 Governor's Conference on Tourism Wednesday and says the Palmetto State is seeing a lot of green when it comes to tourism. COLUMBIA (WACH) - Gov. Nikki Haley spoke at the 2013 Governor's Conference on Tourism Wednesday and says the Palmetto State is seeing a lot of green when it comes to tourism. State officials are hoping to spread the wealth from the cities to rural parts of the state that also have something to offer.

The State: SC mulling more mental health counselors in schools

Mental Health chief tells House he wants 'some presence' in every school district

By JAMIE SELF - jself@thestate.com

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/01/26/2605453/sc-mulling-more-mental-health.html>

For example, she has pledged state dollars to replace a grant no longer available to pay for the agency's use of video conferencing to conduct psychiatric consultations in rural hospitals.

Clarendon Citizen: Swift Group to bring 60 jobs

<http://www.clarendoncitizen.com/article/swift-group-bring-60-jobs>

Swift Group of Industries, a maker of replacement refrigerator filters, will establish a new filter manufacturing facility in Clarendon County in the next several months. The announcement was made public on Jan. 15 and the company's managing director Ramesh Suri gave a speech at Manning Rotary Club's meeting on Jan. 16.

NOTE: "Today's announcement is another win for one of our state's rural areas. We celebrate Swift Group's

decision to put down roots in South Carolina with a \$3.5 million investment and the creation of 60 new jobs in Manning. Our state's business-friendly climate and skilled workforce continue to attract investment from companies all around the globe," said Gov. Nikki Haley when the announcement was made on Jan. 15.

Greenville News (Editorial): Haley sets path forward for new year

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130120/OPINION/301200017/Editorial-Haley-sets-path-forward-new-year>

Note: South Carolina's rural schools largely sit in pockets of the state's worst poverty, and they are part of the cycle that helps account for high unemployment in these counties and a bleak future for so many state residents. Improvements are needed, and it is encouraging to see Haley dare to "start a conversation," as she put it, "about the way we fund K-12 schools in South Carolina."