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January 8, 2016

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*Happy New Year, SC Business! We persevered through many challenges in 2015 as a state, but those challenges have only made us stronger. We are excited about a new year and new opportunities. And we thank you for all of your support of the Chamber over the last year. The South Carolina Chamber will continue to be your unified voice for business to ensure that we continue to provide an environment in the Palmetto State where businesses can grow and create jobs. We also will continue to be your source of SC Business news with this weekly e-newsletter, ChamberBuzz, which will replace Chamber Biz and will be a one-stop shop for all things Chamber related each week. Cheers to a great year for SC Business in 2016 - Your SC Chamber team.*

We have released our [2016 Competitiveness Agenda](#). Taking input from businesses around the state, we presented the [#voiceofscbiz](#) top issues at a press conference at the State House on Wednesday. This year's agenda includes....

- **Infrastructure:** Reform DOT and Fund our roads to keep S.C. competitive. [Click here](#) to tell the General assembly why we need to [#FundandFix](#) SC roads.
- **Workforce:** Let's consolidate our workforce development efforts, create a plan for early childhood education, and support those taking non-credit bearing courses for critical skills training in order to close the [#skillsgap](#).
- **Small Business Licensing Reform:** Create a statewide, standardized business licensing process with uniform renewal dates and standard classifications. [Learn more about our agenda here.](#)

## NEWS COVERAGE:

- Washington Times/AP: [SC Chamber unveiling Competitiveness Agenda for 2016](#)
- ABC Columbia: [SC Chamber unveils Competitiveness Agenda](#), Jennifer Ready
- WLTX: [S.C. Drivers Fed Up With Road Conditions, Want Action](#), Colby Gallagher
- WSPA: [SC Chamber announces 2016 Competitiveness Agenda](#), Dawn Logg
- The State: [Chamber puts out agenda for General Assembly](#), Roddie Burris
- Greenville News: [SC Chamber calls for DOT reform with road funding](#),

- Tim Smith
- Columbia Regional Business Report: [Funding for roads, bridges back on S.C. Chamber's to-do list](#), Chuck Crumbo
- ALSO: Our very own Chamber President Ted Pitts stopped by the SC Municipal Association to discuss legislative issues of common interest to cities and business. [Listen to the podcast](#).

#### January 26, 2016

[REGISTER](#) for a chance to help bring the Chamber's Competitiveness Agenda directly to elected leaders of the General Assembly. The event is January 26 at 4pm. Presented by [Zeus Industrial Products](#)

#### February 17-18, 2016

In partnership with the **SC Department of Employment and Workforce** and the **State Workforce Development Board**, this event is expanded from the Chamber's annual Workforce forum. Uniting the business community with economic development and workforce professionals, the agenda features a variety of topics from sector strategies, aging workforce concerns, and available education initiatives to provide a job-ready workforce. Presented by [Bank of America](#)

#### FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE

Think your company is the safest place in South Carolina to work? [APPLY](#) now to be honored at this year's Safety Awards. **Deadline is February 1.**

#### January 21, 2016

What's at stake in 2016 for American foreign policy, South Carolina, and our nation's international affairs programs? Join us in partnership with the **U.S. Global Leadership Coalition** on Thursday, January 21 for a dynamic lunch discussion with Admiral Mike Mullen and surrogates from Republican presidential campaigns, moderated by KT McFarland.

The General Assembly goes back into session next Tuesday, January 12. Below are a few of the pre-file bills on our radar....

#### [H. 4452](#)

**Summary:** Seeks to give Governor appointing power over the Board of Directors of

the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank.

Sponsors: **Rep. Chip Huggins (R – Lexington)**

Currently residing in the House Committee on Judiciary

#### **H. 4553**

**Summary:** Seeks to establish a state work program within the Department of Corrections.

Sponsors: **Rep. Bill Chumley (R-Spartanburg), Rep. Mike Burns (R-Greenville), Rep. Ann Thayer (R-Anderson), Rep. Eddie Tallon (R-Spartanburg), Rep. Richie Yow (R-Chesterfield), Rep. Lonnie Hosey (D-Barnwell)**

Currently residing in House Judiciary Committee

#### **H. 4478**

**Summary:** All fines received by the state from the Federal Government relating to plutonium storage at the Savannah River Site must be credited to the State Highway Fund and must be used exclusively for highway, road, and bridge maintenance, construction, and repair.

**Sponsors: Rep. Chip Limehouse (R- Charleston)**

Currently residing in the House Committee on Ways and Means

Get in-depth info on our 2016 Competitiveness Agenda [here](#).

**WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR NEW MAGAZINE!**

**#SPREADTHEWORD**

**#TOPTWEET**

**#TOPFACEBOOKPOST**

**Share your story! Have a horror story about SC roads? Tell us!**

**Check out our interactive map to see how many hours and how much money you waste in the car each year.**

## #MemberNews

- **Palmetto Health** and **Tuomey Healthcare System** [finalize partnership](#) to create largest healthcare system in SC...
- Karen W. Kerrison [named Partner](#) at Charleson office of **Young Clements River LLP**...
- Reyburn W. Lominack III [named Partner](#) at **Fisher & Phillips LLC**...
- **Greenville Health System** [receives Diversity and Inclusion Large Business Award](#)...
- **McCrary Construction** [expands into Upstate](#) with regional Greenville office...
- **Cox Industries** [builds 9th consecutive home](#) for Edisto Habitat for Humanity of Orangeburg since 2007...
- And (as if you didn't already know) **Clemson University** [advances to National Championship](#), set to face off against Alabama in title game Monday, Jan. 11

## #MemberEvents

- Speaker Paul Ryan and Sen. Tim Scott to moderate **Kemp Forum on Expanding Opportunity** Jan.9, 8:30 am -2:00 pm at Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. [Register here](#).
- Know a small business like [this](#) and [this](#) that deserves some recognition? Nominate them for a U.S Small Business Administration **Small Business Week Award** [here!](#)

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