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SENATOR, SPARTANBURG
AND GREENVILLE COUNTIES
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 12

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November 16, 2015

HAND DELIVERED

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor of South Carolina
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

In light of recent developments on the international stage, we are writing to request that you immediately halt the refugee resettlement program in South Carolina.

In just the last few weeks we have learned even more about how little vetting and investigation is being done to insure that the individuals being resettled are not part of a criminal element or, even more concerning, that there may be radical Islamic terrorists smuggled in with legitimate refugees.

The international Islamic terrorist organization the Islamic State has openly bragged that they have an ongoing operation to insert trained terrorists into Western democracies by mixing them with the horde of refugees coming out of the war-torn Middle East and North Africa.

We hope you will agree that we can no longer continue to ignore the threat to our country posed by these radicals. While we can never expect President Barack Obama to alter his leftist ideological strategy, the state of South Carolina must do everything in our power to halt this potential invasion. In the wake of the attack on Paris in the last few days, which put the capital of a major Western power into chaos and resulted in 129 deaths and more than 300 wounded, it is

indisputable that the Islamic State, and other Islamic radicals, are capable of pulling off well-planned, coordinated attacks with devastating results.

Although you may not consider South Carolina to be a strategic target in the eyes of international terrorists, we would remind you that we are home to a significant international, particularly European, industrial base and business community. More importantly, it would be an awful burden to bear if an attack did happen on American soil and one of the perpetrators tragically gained entry to the United States through our resettlement program.

We owe it to our citizens to be extra vigilant and not take unnecessary risks. Therefore, until such time as the United States government, particularly the intelligence community, attains the ability to properly vet these refugees, we request that you suspend South Carolina's participation in this program.

With best regards, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Bright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lee Bright
Senator of Spartanburg and Greenville Counties
Senatorial District 12

N.B., Representatives Bill Chumley and Mike Burns join me in this letter but were not able to sign in person.