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**Date:** 7/11/2014 3:01:34 PM  
**Subject:** S.C.'s Entrepreneurial Spirit

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July 11, 2014

South Carolina has always possessed a remarkable entrepreneurial spirit. From innovator [John Gary Anderson](#) manufacturing the nation's first automobile in Rock Hill in 1916, to today's homegrown multi-billion-dollar companies like [Sonoco](#) and the [JM Smith Corporation](#), the Palmetto State continues to prove that of all the things we make just right, a successful business climate is at the top of the list.

This week, I participated in the Municipal Association of South Carolina's panel discussion on entrepreneurship and its positive impact on the local economy. The panelists were leaders from the state's innovation community, including Charleston native and entrepreneur [Nate DaPore](#). DaPore is president and CEO of [PeopleMatter](#), a successful start-up that in just five years has become one of the largest privately held technology companies in South Carolina. This is just one example of the many enterprising companies that are securing a spot in South Carolina's thriving business community.

Self-starters are the backbone of our state. Commerce is focused on bringing all business - especially these high-growth entrepreneurial companies - to the Palmetto State's cities and towns. We remain committed to supporting their ingenuity and continued impact on our workforce, economy and our future.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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### Spotlight: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Communities across the state are slated to benefit from public improvement projects supported by nearly \$13.3 million in funds from the latest round of the [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)](#) program. The [South Carolina Department of Commerce](#) is awarding CDBG funds to 24 local [municipalities](#), representing 12,591 residents. Additionally, 96 percent of funds awarded will directly impact residents in Tier II, III and IV counties, which are not considered to be "developed."

CDBG assists communities in providing housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities. All grants awarded through the CDBG program must meet at least one of three objectives:

- Benefit low- and moderate-income persons
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blighting conditions
- Meet other urgent community development needs

For more information on the CDBG program and how it continues to boost rural development visit <http://www.cdbgsc.com>.

*Photo Caption: Wells Crossroads Water Line Project in Orangeburg County*

## Commerce Capture: Frontier Communications

Since setting up shop in 2010, **Frontier Communications** has invested millions of dollars into its Horry County call center. The company's North Myrtle Beach location handles customer support in all Frontier markets for billing, order fulfillment functions. The telecommunications provider serves Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Sumter, Georgetown, Simpsonville and numerous other South Carolina communities. Frontier is one of America's largest corporations and has approximately 100,000 employees all over the United States.

*Photo courtesy of **Frontier Communications***

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