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To: Soura, ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov
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Subject: Note 6/12/12

Christian,

Thank you so much for meeting with me today. I really appreciate your taking time out of your schedule during this busy time, and I enjoyed our conversation. I look forward to talking with you again, hopefully!

Please let us know where and how we can get involved with the Work Ready Communities initiative, and with helping convey the value of the Work Keys and NCRC programs to employers. We are committed to the program and hope to make that an integral part of how we do business, and I think we can — at a minimum — be good ambassadors for what Governor Haley is trying to do.

Thank you for your encouragement on the SUTA issue as well. As I mentioned, the budget allocation this year is critical, but we would like to pursue a more comprehensive solution for the future. We feel that the tax, as calculated now, is an inhibitor to creating and/or sustaining jobs for the companies in the punitive tiers of the array. SCDEW is making meaningful changes to their operations, and I believe that we will see improvement in controlling the cost of unemployment benefits as they continue to make progress. That will be most helpful in the long run. In the meantime, we appreciate your and the Governor's interest in helping companies be more competitive, and thereby more capable of hiring and employing people, by mitigating the impact of the SUTA tax allocation.

Best of luck to you and Governor Haley with closing out the budget process and the legislative session. I hope you and your family have a great summer, and we will hope to see you again soon!

Regards,
Blanton Phillips



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