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**Subject:** Commerce Communications: South Carolina's International Footprint

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February 2, 2017

It's often said that to be successful in business, one must go where the customers are and build relationships with them. For Team South Carolina, that's exactly what we strive to do. And, with an economic footprint that stretches to all corners of the Earth, that's exactly what we are doing. Each and every day, members of our team are hard at work abroad, telling our international partners and prospective industries what makes South Carolina such an ideal destination to live, work and play.

Comprised of offices in China, Germany, Japan and India, our international team is committed to helping foreign-based companies in their efforts to establish, relocate and expand business operations in the Palmetto State. As they do each year, the team visited South Carolina last week, touring the state and meeting with various allies and private sector partners to strengthen relationships and ensure that they're equipped with all of the latest information.

Moving forward, as we seek to expand the state's international footprint even further, we know that the invaluable members of our foreign offices will play a crucial role. As our boots on the ground overseas, they are the ones who help spread the message far and wide that South Carolina truly is *'Just right'* for business.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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**Spotlight: Coordinating Council for Workforce Development**

This week, the South Carolina Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD) held its second meeting in Columbia, S.C. Established through legislation passed last year, the CCWD is tasked with developing a comprehensive, collaborative workforce development strategy to meet current and future workforce needs.

Chaired by the Secretary of Commerce, the 10-member council includes representation from K-12 education; the technical and community college system; research and four-year universities; workforce and economic development agency directors and presidents; and the private sector. Additionally, the council is seeking input from a newly-formed Business Advisory Committee to assure that the concerns of the business community are taken into account.

As the CCWD continues to meet in the coming months, Team South Carolina will be able to collaborate like never before and ensure that we're providing all existing and future industries with the workforce they need to thrive.

## Commerce Capture: Bob Marriott Retires

This week, long-time S.C. Department of Commerce employee **Bob Marriott** retired after more than five decades of service. Starting at S.C. Commerce -- then known as the State Development Board -- in 1968, Marriott worked through the administrations of different governors. And, during his time as a project manager, he was responsible for recruiting countless significant globally-recognized firms, such as Cummins, Daimler, Michelin, Mitsubishi Polyester Film, Otis Elevator and TaylorMade. Marriott's projects brought \$8 billion in capital investment and approximately 3,000 new jobs to South Carolina.

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