

March 17, 2016

Lynn and Leslie Alessandro  
3340 Gristmill Lane  
Sumter, S. C. 29150  
  
803-469-6300

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, S. C. 29201

The Honorable Nikki Haley,

We are writing this letter with the hope you might be of assistance with an issue we are having with storm water run off onto our property. My husband and I are lifelong, conservative, Republican citizens of South Carolina. We have worked hard, paid all our bills, paid taxes and supported our community through volunteer and monetary contributions to various local needs. We have never been in trouble or arrested. We have lived an honest and ethical life, treated others fairly and tried to be a contribution to our community and country. Our issue is this: In 2010 we purchased a piece of property in Sumter, SC on Gristmill Lane. In 2014 we built a house and moved in. On this property is a small, less than ¼ acre pond totally surrounded by the boundaries of our property. We cleaned up the pond and landscaped it making it part of our total landscape. We stocked it with fish and have enjoyed the wildlife associated with the water. We had no problem until last year when the City of Sumter dug a ditch from Loring Mill Road, crossing into our property, dumping the storm water run off from another neighborhood and Loring Mill Road into our pond. We had no prior knowledge or notification of this. There is NO EASEMENT allowing any access to our property. Every time it rains we now have cans, bottles, bags, styrofoam containers and other debris dumped onto our property, not to mention herbicides, pesticides, gas, oil and other contaminates associated with this water. We have very respectfully spoken with everyone possible to try to remedy this situation. We have been told everything from "the ditch has always been there", "the other neighborhood was there before yours", "it is a city issue and we are not getting involved in city politics", "it is the natural flow of water", to "there is nothing we are going to do about it". We asked that a water test be done to determine the safeness of the water (neighborhood children like to fish in the pond, also several times men's groups from churches, etc. want fish for a fish fry). I am fearful now for anyone to eat fish coming from this pond. Our request for a test was refused. Either my husband or I have talked with Harry Gaymon, with DHEC, Al Harris, City of Sumter Engineer, Joe McElveen, Mayer of Sumter and Keith Lane, DHEC. I have called Buck Graham (I think he is with EPA), left messages but have received no response. I have also called Cynthia Ashford, SC Storm Water Program, several times but again have had no response. I now have a scummy, trash filled eyesore in my yard. My husband works with a company that is required to strictly monitor and

report water conditions on their property in order to protect the surrounding waters, environment and drainage. Why are we not given that same right – to be protected from the City of Sumter from using my property as a dump? We are so disappointed with the local and state response to this issue and are totally frustrated and quite frankly getting quite angry about it. Again, there is no easement or other considerations on the plat of our property. We had no problem until last year when the city diverted this drainage onto our property. You are our last hope to get some help and resolution to this problem. Thank you so much for your time.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signatures of Lynn and Leslie Alessandro in black ink. The signature for Lynn is on top and the signature for Leslie is below it, both written in a cursive style.

Lynn and Leslie Alessandro