

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

Dear Governor Haley,

As a transplant Republican from the heartland, I admire your tenacity and honesty as Governor of the great state of South Carolina. Because I am moderate I do not subscribe to the divisive, polarity of the Tea Party. Taxation "especially" for usage of public highways is necessary and common in all other states but South Carolina.

It is not necessary to research new methods of highway funding when South Carolina is not inline with the rest of the United States. I find it inappropriate that trailers are not registered, licensed or taxed to operate on South Carolina streets and highways. In one day I noted 37 of 47 trailers on the streets and highways in the Charleston area did not have running lights, safety chains or turn signals.

To my dismay I have rented various trailers from legitimate rental companies in the Charleston area and have found in no other state would these trailers be allowed access on any city, state or federal roadway. I am a responsible citizen with proper towing capabilities on my vehicles including electric brakes and adaptable light connectivity.

At the commercial rental facilities I have been informed not to plug in the trailer lights to my vehicle as it will "blow" fuses and there are not any electric brakes for hauling heavy machinery. WHAT!!!

I rented a travel trailer for a family vacation to Florida that was not safe for highway operation and went across state lines with expired Kentucky license plates only to have a Florida police officer threaten to impound the unit. I promptly fixed the defect and promised to get the junk back to South Carolina ASAP!

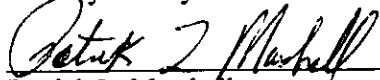
Growing up in South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska, trailers of all sizes are a requirement for living. These states recognize a trailer hauling a backhoe does more damage to the highways than the backhoe. Travelers to the Sturgis Motor Cycle Rally haul their two wheeled bikes on multi-axle trailers to save wear and tear on the bikes. These heavy trailers do more damage to the highways than if the bikes were ridden across the same highway. Every hunter has an ATV, snowmobile or animal hauler that does more damage to the highway surface than the light weight cargo they are transporting.

Based on the hauling capacity and number of axles the yearly registration, license fees and taxes can greatly enhance the South Carolina highway funds. In addition municipal and state law enforcement will have a purpose to give citations that will provide additional assets to community and state coffers.

Developing and adopting a registration method is simple! At the time of registration if the vehicle doesn't have a manufacture ID or title the state can provide a registration number that adheres to the vehicle like a boat. This must be visible and placed on the right or left side of the hitch point. Over time old trailers will be replaced with new ones and the sticker method will slowly become extinct.

Please consider my input that trailers in South Carolina need to be recognized as having a NEGATIVE impact on roadways in South Carolina and must contribute to the safety of all who use the roadways and be required to pay for the use of the roadways supported by all taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration.



02/25/2015

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