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Date: 3/4/2013 12:25:18 PM

Subject: State Exports, DUI, and College Tuition -- Weekly Update from Sen. Tom Young -- February 26, 2013 to March 4, 2013

State Exports, DUI, and College Tuition -- Weekly Update from Sen. Tom Young â€“ February 26, 2013 to March 4, 2013

The Senate is in session for 2013. I hope that you find this update helpful and informative. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know.

State Exports â€“ Good News! South Carolinaâ€™s exports reached a record \$25.3 Billion in goods sold in 2012. Our state ranks first among the 50 states in tire exports. Canada, Germany, and China are the top export markets for all products.

Restructuring â€“ State Superintendent of Education: This week, the full Senate will consider this bill to allow the Governor to appoint the State Superintendent of Education (S.53) as a cabinet appointee rather than be popularly elected. All six restructuring studies of state government since 1920 have recommended that the Superintendent of Education be appointed by the Governor to increase accountability, efficiency, and coordination in public education in South Carolina. I was the primary sponsor of this bill when the House passed it in March 2011. I am a co-sponsor in the Senate this year.

DUI â€“ Ignition Interlock Device: On Wednesday, the Senate approved a bill that will toughen the stateâ€™s DUI laws for repeat offenders and require the use of Ignition Interlock Devices in vehicles in certain circumstances. The device prevents the vehicle from starting if the driver blows above a certain blood-alcohol level. If the bill becomes law, DUI first offenders who blow a .12 blood alcohol content or higher would be required to install a breathalyzer device connected to a vehicleâ€™s ignition system. DUI offenders on their 2nd and 3rd offenses already are required to install the device after the suspension of their licenses ends as a condition of driving again. The bill would eliminate the suspension period for 2nd and 3rd offenders and require them to install the device immediately.

High School Dropout/Driving Bill: The Senate Education K-12 subcommittee deadlocked 3-3 on whether to provide a favorable report to the â€œhigh school

dropout/no drive until 18â€• bill this past Thursday. I am the primary sponsor. The bill still has a chance to win approval and advance to the full Senate later this month when it comes up to the full Education Committee. To see the television story from last week, go [here](#).

Silver Bluff Road Construction Update: The plans for this project have been sent to the DOT Right of Way Office. DOT representatives will begin property acquisition as early as mid to late May 2013. The estimated schedule for acquisition of Right of Way is 12 months, which means the project will be ready to Let (advertise for Bids) in July 2014. Construction would begin in the Fall of 2014 with an anticipated duration of 18 to 24 months depending on the required utility relocations and the schedule of the selected contractor. That would render a projected completion date of the Summer or Fall of 2016.

College Tuition at Public Colleges and Universities in South Carolina: To see a list of instate and out of state tuition for public colleges and universities in South Carolina, go [here](#).

Aiken County Republican Party Precinct Reorganization: On Thursday, March 14, 2011, all Republican Precincts in Aiken County will conduct the bi-annual precinct reorganization meetings. Please go to the web site www.aikengop.com for further details.

Hydrogen Research: The Savannah River National Lab has been at the forefront of hydrogen research. To see an article about this, go [here](#).

Local Students Visiting State House this Week: At least one student from each of the Countyâ€™s seven public high schools visited the State House this past week on Wednesday as a â€œlegislative shadow.â€• The students visited with both members of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Juilliard in Aiken: This week long event, featuring multiple musical performances by students and faculty from the Juilliard School, is much anticipated by many in our community. To see the schedule of events including those which are open to the public, go [here](#).

Important Cyber Attack Information

Experian Credit Monitoring Deadline Extended: Taxpayers now have until March 31, 2013 to sign up for protection and unlimited fraud resolution.

Deadline to Enroll Dependents: The deadline to enroll minor dependents, whose social security numbers may have been compromised, in Experianâ€™s Family Secure plan is May 31, 2013.

Consumer Affairs Recommendations: To see the SC Department of Consumer Affairsâ€™ recommendations for what to do when there is a security breach impacting your personal identity information, go [here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions: The Governorâ€™s office has prepared several groups of questions and answers as indicated below by category:

- **Experian Family Secure** – To see those, go [here](#).
- **Cyber Attack** – To see those, go [here](#) and [here](#).
- **Senior Citizens** -- To see those, go [here](#).
- **How to Place a Security Freeze:** To see how to place a security freeze, go [here](#).

Constituent Information

Legislative Email Updates: Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): bill@billhixon.com
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): bill@taylorschouse.com
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): dwells29801@gmail.com

Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information: Congressman Wilson now represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is 608-9747.

Speaking with Groups Around the District: If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government: To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: 1-855-SC-FRAUD.

Facebook: I have a [Facebook page](#) for Senator Tom Young. Please “like” the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

Tom Young’s Website: My website can be reached at www.senatortomyoung.com. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce: The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go to <http://sccommerce.com/sc-business-network>.

Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan: South Carolina’s 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go to www.FutureScholar.com/parents.

Request a Flag: If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com. Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

State House Tours: Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling (803) 734-2430. If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you.

Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization: To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, visit www.tbredcountry.org.

Email Updates: If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

Road Issues: If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at 641-7665 or Aiken County at 642-1532 to report the problem. If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young
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215-3631 (cell)

Paid for by Tom Young for Senate

This message was sent to katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov from:

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