

October 21, 2015

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The Honorable Governor Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC, 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

My name is Sarah Baker and I am a current student at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. I am writing to you about resilience funding and aid for the recent floods. This will not be the last time Carolina experiences a "1000 year flood;" science proves this will happen again and with even greater force. Governor, this flood is a warning. Instead of putting a monetary bandaid on this problematic issue, I suggest a systematic approach to the goal of resilience.

While FEMA has been generous in their efforts to fund the cost of damage incurred by the floods, I believe federal aid will not suffice all of Carolina's needs. I agree with Senator Lindsey Graham: in order to rebuild Carolina we should not rely on the "pork-fest" funding but rather we must rebuild and fund from the inside out. With the help of government bonds and industrial aid (Boeing), the opportunity to increase the gas tax seems reasonable. A recent Statehouse Report shows 43% of readers were in favor of an increased gas tax of \$0.20 per gallon while 33.8% of readers were in favor of an increased gas tax of \$0.10 per gallon. Conversely, FITSNEWS believes that South Carolina can afford to pay the infrastructure damage without a raise in gas tax, as long as the government stops investing in expensive wasteful projects (SCDOT scam). FEMA will not provide all of the funding necessary for sound sustainable infrastructure. Enacting a gas tax, reassessing the budget, and focusing on neglected programs such as DHEC, DNR, and DOT can re-position these programs to operate within a responsible system.

With the upcoming legislation on government funding and taxes for flood relief efforts, I want to encourage you to vote in support of reducing spending on insignificant relief efforts and focus on sustainable infrastructure in addition to increasing the gas tax by 10 to 20 cents per gallon. This is an important issue that can positively impact a lot of your constituents and programs should you vote in favor. I hope that you will consider my opinion and the facts I have presented in my request. Please feel free to contact me with the information I have provided above. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Baker

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.