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Subject: H-E-L-P !

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H-E-L-P!

Dear Friends:

Many in South Carolina have moved on once the storms of earlier this month past through. Let's us remember, that there are many residents and many farmers still trying to put the pieces together and move forward.

Today, many discussed H-E-L-P for Aiken County farmers. Some local farmers suffered serious damage when several Aiken County dams were breached as the storm dumped 20" of rain and flooded portions of far eastern Aiken County.

Heartbreaking Disaster

Affected farmers were the focus a meeting today with state and federal officials. One person described the crop damage as a "heartbreaking disaster" for farmers. S.C. Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers and representatives of various federal agencies

came to the hard hit Hollow Creek area near Perry & Salley to assist farmers in navigating the path to financial assistance.

Commissioner Weathers told the audience that so far this year Palmetto State farmers have experienced freezes, droughts and flooding; a devastating triple blow that has resulted in tremendous loss. Initial estimates for flood damage to crops is \$300 million, but could likely go higher.

Finding Help

Numerous federal programs can potentially help farmers, depending on their specific losses. A starting point for FEMA information is: [What To Do If Your Business or Farm Was Damaged](#).

Commissioner Weathers also announced the creation of the "[Plant It Forward SC](#)". This initiative by the SC Department of Agriculture is an outreach to America, and particularly the agri-business community. It is seeking tax-deductible contributions to aid farmers as they work to reestablish and

resume some sense of normalcy as they look to next year's planting season. You can help!

While life for most South Carolinian's has returned to normal after the flooding, some of our local farmers in addition to many other residents, have a long way to go before their lives get back to business-as-usual. They need are understanding, support and prayers.

I 'm Available

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. If you need help navigating state government, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In your Service,

Bill Taylor

803-270-2012

Representative
South Carolina General
Assembly

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taxpayer funds.

Photos of the Week

Every meal on our plates...contains ingredients grown on a farm. We all need farms to survive. Let's keep our farmers as well as others still reeling from the rains, in our thoughts and prayers.

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