

Richard R Lee III
223 Wilson Brock Lane
Cheraw, SC 29520

January 4, 2016

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

Dear Madam Governor Haley,

I am writing you to encourage a notion to assist South Carolinian farmers and other agricultural related businesses in this great state. Agriculture was devastated this past year from the extreme weather we faced. I personally felt the burden of these extremities since my family's multi-generational farm was greatly affected. As a member of the 54th district, I was challenged to write to you by my state representative Mrs. Patricia Henegan. I hope to encourage you to ask Congress for financial assistance due to the drought, flooding and economical hardships that South Carolina farmers faced during this growing season.

Madam Governor, I understand your parents moved to this country from India where agriculture is critical to the daily way of life. I was personally able to experience life for a summer in northern India in 2013. I was able to observe how important agriculture is to that community, during my time attending Francis Marion University earning my undergraduate degree. I was the first person from my family to graduate college. Which brings me to explain on behalf of my family. Agriculture has pushed me to where I am today through blood, sweat and tear sacrifices that others before me have made. This statement has been echoed throughout the community where I am a part of.

This year my father and myself planted approximately 150 acres of corn. Our crops were certified through our local Farm Service Agency office and we operating using a micro-loan program in hopes of being able to incorporate as a father-son business. Unfortunately, the corn crop did not pollinate because of extreme heat and drought that we faced all year. Our crops were insured, and that still did not help cover the cost of our seeds, fuel and fertilizer. Our equipment, which is extremely old, may have to be sold in an attempt to cover our debts. I also acknowledge that there are many others in this state that also feel this same or stronger burden. Many of those still have soybeans and peanuts in the fields that are starting to rot due to the torrential rainfall that occurred this fall.

Under your leadership Governor Haley, this great state's workforce has grown exponentially. I simply ask that you assist all farmers of this state. These personalities and quality of people are what makes this state so great! All of us are deeply invested in this community and to have so many of these farms around this state will be greatly impacted. I am beyond honored to represent the voices of those who work in the amounts of acres rather than that of the amounts of hours.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard R Lee III". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Respectfully yours," text.

Richard R Lee III