

March 7, 2016

D. Monte Steedley
400 Sweetwater Road
North Augusta, South Carolina, 29860

To: Senator Tom Davis

Subject: Augusta Chronicle Newspaper Article, March 4, 2016: "Haley backs road plan, speaker expresses doubts"

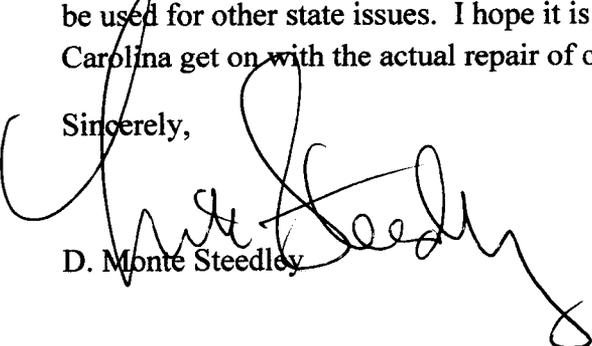
Apparently you do not drive on South Carolina roads. You are definitely a stumbling block, or maybe an unavoidable, large pot hole, in obtaining a long term solution for our crumbling South Carolina roads. Your proposed \$400 million from the South Carolina General Fund is only a temporary fix and will not go very far. The bad roads problem will be with us for years. We need a system that will guarantee road repair funds for many years and a slight gas tax increase is the way to go. You and the Americans for Prosperity are not listening to the majority of the South Carolinians (according to the state Chamber of Commerce) who want our highways repaired and are okay with a slight tax hike. The \$400 million will only cover just a few roads. In addition to the small tax increase, the DOT project decision board needs to be revised so that other areas of the state, outside of the large cities, receive highway funds. A cut in the property tax that will offset the gas tax increase is an idea that should also be pursued. You can always put a time limit on the gas tax and review the status of the state roads in ten years or so. You can even agree to a lower gas tax increase or stretch the increase over a six year period. The state needs a continuous, dependable supply of road repair money. Not a small supply of money that is good for one year.

Just in my driving area, the following road problems exist:

- Sweetwater Road – pavement cracking and ruts that fill with water when it rains, drainage problems, hazardous shoulders
- Five Notch Road – pot holes
- I-20 – exit 5 to exit 1, uneven pavement and pot holes
- I-20@ Savannah River bridge - large asphalt patch, only two lanes, no emergency pull over lane and the state of Georgia is ready to rebuild the bridge but is waiting for South Carolina to come up with the money for the South Carolina portion of the funds
- I-20 west, just outside Columbia, headed toward North Augusta, very bad pavement with holes

I also think about the valuable senate time you and your cohorts are taking and took last year that could be used for other state issues. I hope it is not asking too much of you to step aside and let South Carolina get on with the actual repair of our roads.

Sincerely,


D. Monte Steedley

Cc: ~~The Honorable Nikki Haley~~
The Honorable Shane Massey
The Honorable Jay Lucas
The Honorable Ray Cleary
Bill Ross, Executive Director SC Alliance to Fix Our Roads