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**To : "Veldran, " KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov**

**Subject : South Carolina Resident**

November 8, 2015

Dear Governor Haley & Mr. Carter,

As I sit here contemplating what the near future holds for me, I am scared, I am hurt, I am furious and I am trying to understand what God is trying to do in my life. You see, I have been in these shoes before. I began my career 17 years ago at the Alcoa facility in Badin, North Carolina. I had been there exactly one year, when Alcoa announced they were going to try to hold onto the facility by letting those with seniority retire to hold onto the one line that we had. We were the oldest smelter that Alcoa owned and one of the highest costs to Alcoa. The dams that were constructed to power this facility had begun to sell power off as they could sell power for a higher return than use the electricity to produce power for the plant. We were able to hang onto the plant in 2000. That time passed and we were afforded the opportunity to plan for two lines to operate. We began hiring to populate the line with enough people to operate. We hired the last ten people on Monday, July 7, 2002 and on Wednesday; we were told that Alcoa was curtailing the Badin facility. My heart broke, as I had left a job and career of 13 years with Michelin Aircraft Tires. My job was in human resources. The next months were heart wrenching. Even though I wasn't the one that made the decision to lay off 267 people, I was the one deciding who was qualified to hold the 67 jobs that was remaining. I would finish the layoff listing, cry for days only to learn that Alcoa had again changed their mind and I had to start over with the qualifications listing. Again, I struggled with the listing, would complete the assignments, and determine who went home, cried for days before posting the listing, this process happened three times. I didn't know what fate held for me, I didn't have time to worry about myself or my family as I had 267 people to take care of. As the day drew near, October 2, 2002 was one of the worst days I have ever lived through. For 5 years, I lived and breathed working with employees that were laid off. Each week was a new challenge. I had grown men sit in my office and cry because they couldn't face their families. They had no job, no future in that area and it was my job to get them help by making sure they were receiving unemployment, taking care of their benefits and helping them to prepare for retirement. I had employees that came each week to see me, some of them lost parents, spouses, grandparents and children. Together, we took care of life's difficulties. We cried together, laughed together and worked together. Those five years was one of the most difficult times I lived through day by day. In 2007, Alcoa transferred me to Knoxville Tennessee to the corporate office as my job was no longer needed at the Badin Facility for 26 people. My husband and I divided our household furnishings as our three children (all of who was over 18 years old), didn't want to leave Norwood, North Carolina. So in order to try to hold onto my 10 years seniority, I had no choice but to leave my children and try to get enough seniority to retire. You see, I was 47 years old and as you know, starting over at 47 years of age, and being a woman trying to start over at 47 years old wouldn't be easy. So my husband and I moved to Knoxville, Tennessee to the corporate office. For 5 years, we seen our children during holidays and once per month as either we would travel to North Carolina or they would travel to Tennessee. Each time we parted, the tears would flow. Both of my older children married while we were in Tennessee and we became Grandparents as well. Again in 2012, I was told my job was going away and I needed to transfer to another facility. I was offered Washington State, or Indiana or South Carolina. We had sacrificed so much at this point and I only had 6 years before I could retire. I felt so blessed in 2012 to be at the Mt Holly facility, doing what I loved to do in human resources helping others. We were only 4 hours from our children and only 6 years before I could retire. We moved to Goose Creek, South Carolina December 2012. And now after that move, I only have 3 years to go before I can retire with full benefits and return to my children and grandchildren and again facing the same dilemma. Working with Alcoa and now Century has afforded me to provide a future for my children, their college, helping them with expenses with the Grandchildren. Alcoa/Century has provided us with medical coverage and a salary to prepare for our retirement. And again, I am facing losing my time for retirement, losing my job and starting over again at 57 years old. I am hurt that not you Mr. Carter nor the Governor see enough potential with our plant to try...just try to come to an agreement to keep these jobs in South Carolina. Yes, our market is a commodity market that has highs and lows, but to be determined not to help is another story. The fact that Alcoa is shutting down 3 of the 7 plants in the US, should be a national security threat. Should there be a war, there is only 4 Aluminum Smelters in the US, how are you going to get enough aluminum for war time, or how will the US get enough aluminum to support the US? Bring aluminum from out the US? Not support your own people?

This plant Mt Holly is like no other that I have ever worked at. We are different people in South Carolina as we have demonstrated that over and over again. Just look at how people here came together during the church shooting. We didn't destroy the city; we didn't act as others have though out the United States. We were there for each other. Look at the storms that we experienced in South Carolina recently; we came together as a family would to help others in their time of need. So, I can't no Governor and Mr. Carter don't understand how you could turn a deaf ear and make a decision to terminate 600 jobs, destroy careers and families and do that at Christmas. Any time is a bad time to turn your back on your neighbors, but Christmas I don't understand. You have both made your decision to support ONE MAN'S decision that is based on Greed and untruths. Mr. Carter had already written us out of his budget for 2016, he had already decided to up power rates of the community and supported by "HIS" board. You seem to have forgotten that these people that you are putting out of a job are people that pay power bills, South Carolina taxes, insurances...people that support all the businesses in the Moncks Corner, Goose Creek and Charleston community. We the people of Century contributed almost \$200,000 out of our pockets for United Way in 2015. Not Century or Alcoa, but the people at the plant. And still you Governor or Mr. Carter are not willing to help us at all, no one person should have that much power that they alone can determine the fate of 600 people. Especially since we already have power lines and a power contract outside of South Carolina that would make us viable. Even though Santee Cooper was the one to suggest that we find our own power source outside of South Carolina, only to tell us it was against the law or we needed new power lines. Power lines that we "Century" have well paid for over and over again. Greed is what makes the world go round these days, but that is not the answer, can't we once again show what this community is made of? Greed has nothing to do with helping others, or supporting your community or the community that helped put you into office Governor. Instead Governor, you are supporting one business over another. You are supporting the Power Company, which is supporting one business over the other. And I thought you said "Can't" wasn't a part of your vocabulary Governor.

Our plant has been in the community for 35 years and has some of the best people in the world working for it. Mr. Carter, a true "Man of the Year" would step up to bat and not stop until an agreement is made, we are not asking that you give us power. Since you wrote us out of the budget, the money for transmission would be a plus for you. But when you support a China business over a business that has been in the community for 35 years, you are not supporting your community or the people in your community. Governor you said you would not let our plant close due to a power contract, were you being honest or just playing a political game. Be true to your word....stand up for our plant. I wonder if news programs could find out the real story. Now that is the furious part....

Please help us save our jobs, and grant us the same peaceful Christmas that you and your families will be having. Instead, we are preparing not to spend money because we don't know what the future holds. When our power bills are due in January / February, will you forgive the debt since you put us out of a job? When my car and house insurance is due in February, do you think that Ms Pamell will forgive the debt since she too also helped put me out of a job.

When all of you sit down at the Thanksgiving and Christmas meal with your families or waking up on Christmas morning with your family, remember that there will be 600 people that will be facing the holidays and New Year without jobs.

Please give us the same peace that you and your family will be experiencing at Christmas; a job and security in knowing that we will be able to provide for our family.

Thank you for your consideration and for trying to help save our jobs.

Thank you,  
Lanita Coley