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Date: 2/5/2013 8:17:55 AM

Subject: RE: Message from the Department of Employment and Workforce

In response to the e mail that I received in reference to the DEW office closings, please note that this decision will cause an undue hardship on many of the citizens that I represent. Because of the short notice, and other commitments that I have this morning, I will not be able to attend the meeting that will be held at 10:30. Therefore, I would like to make a few points. First of all, while I understand that based on your data, the amount of unemployment claims have decreased, I am wondering about the number of claims that are filed in the areas where offices are slated to be closed. Most of the area that I represent continue to have high rates of unemployment, yet these are the offices that are scheduled to be closed. It seems to me that the areas of high unemployment, (mostly rural with not much industry) should be the areas where the offices remain open. Also, please keep in mind that in many of these rural areas where the offices will be closed, the citizens may not have access to the internet or may not be computer literate in many cases. As a result, the idea of filing online may be a challenge for many people. It seems that any time we attempt to make changes in state government, many times the changes negatively affect the citizens who are most vulnerable in our communities.

Again, when I look at the list of offices that you are closing, they seem to be in areas that have the highest rates of unemployment in our state; areas that I would assume would have the higher number of unemployment claims filed. How does that equate to quality customer services?

Kevin Johnson
SC Senate District 36

From: Paul, Kerry [mailto:KPaul@dew.sc.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 5:00 PM

To: Terry Alexander; Rita Allison; Carl Anderson; Michael Anthony; Todd Atwater; Jimmy Bales; Nathan Ballentine; Bruce Bannister; Liston Barfield; Eric Bedingfield; Beth Bernstein; Kenny Bingham; DanBowen@schouse.gov; Bill Bowers; Doug Brannon; Grady Brown; Robert Brown; Mia McLeod; Bill Chumley; Alan D. Clemmons; Bill Clyburn; Senate General Committee Mailbox; Karl Allen; Sean Bennett; Lee Bright; Kevin Bryant; Paul Campbell, Jr.; George E. "Chip" Campsen III; Ray Cleary; Creighton Coleman; Tom Corbin; Senate Education Committee Mailbox; Ronnie W. Cromer; Tom Davis; Mike Fair; Robert Ford; Greg Gregory; Senate Transportation Committee Mailbox; Senate Ethics Committee Mailbox; Greg Hembree; Brad Hutto; Darrell Jackson; Kevin Johnson; Senate Finance Committee Mailbox; Joel Lourie; Gerald Malloy; Senate Judiciary Committee Mailbox; Shane Martin; Shane Massey; John W. Matthews, Jr.; Thomas McElveen; Yancey McGill; Floyd Nicholson; William O'Dell; Senate Medical Affairs Committee Mailbox; Clementa Pinckney; Luke Rankin; Glenn Reese; John Scott; Nikki Setzler; Katrina Shealy; Vincent Sheheen; Paul Thurmond; Ross Turner; Senate Agriculture Committee Mailbox; Kent M. Williams; Tom Young Jr.; Gilda Cobb-Hunter; Derham Cole; Heather Crawford; Kris Crawford; Bill Crosby; Joe Daning; Greg Delleney; Chandra Dillard; Tracy Edge; Shannon Erickson; Kirkman Finlay; Mike Forrester;

Laurie Funderburk; Craig Gagnon; Mike Gambrell; Wayne George; Wendell Gilliard; Stephen Goldfinch; Jerry Govan; Dan Hamilton; Kevin Hardee; Nelson Hardwick; House Speaker Mailbox; Chris Hart; Jackie E. "Coach" Hayes; Phyllis Henderson; Bill Herbersman; David R. Hiott; Bill Hixon; Kenneth Hodges; Jenny Horne; Lonnie Hosey; Leon Howard; Chip Huggins; Joe Jefferson; Ralph Kennedy; John Richard C. King; Patsy G. Knight; Harry B. "Chip" Limehouse; Dwight A. Loftis; Deborah Long; Phillip Lowe; Jay Lucas; David J. Mack; Peter McCoy; Joe McEachern; Walt McLeod; Jim Merrill; Harold Mitchell; Dennis Moss; Steve Moss; Elizabeth Munnerlyn; Chris Murphy; Wendy K. Nanney; Joe Neal; Weston Newton; Ralph Norman; Harry Ott; House Education Committee Mailbox; Anne Parks; Andy Patrick; Mike Pitts; Tommy Pope; Mandy Norrell; Joshua Putnam; Rick Quinn; Bobby Ridgeway; Shannon Riley; Samuel Rivers; Leola RobinsonSimpson; Todd Rutherford; Mike Ryhal; Ronnie Sabb; House LCI Committee Mailbox; Bakari Sellers; Gary Simrill; B. R. Skelton; Murrell Smith; Garry R. Smith; Roland Smith; james@jamesmith.com; Mike Sottile; Eddy Southard; Kit Spires; Leon Stavrinakis; Tommy Stringer; Eddie Tallon; Bill Taylor; Anne Thayer; Mac Toole; Ted Vick; David Weeks; Don Wells; Seth Whipper; Brian White; William R. "Bill" Whitmire; Robert Williams; Mark N. Willis; Donna Wood; MaryGail Douglas; Raye Felder

Cc: Veldran, Katherine; Turner, Abraham

Subject: Message from the Department of Employment and Workforce

Members of the General Assembly,

Please see attached two detailed items—a memorandum and the letter sent to Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants, respectively—that further explain the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce's effort to regionalize UI services by shifting from lower volume centers to higher volume centers. There is a listing of office redirections included in the attachments for your use/distribution. Please know that throughout this process, we will strive to minimize any loss of services throughout the state with additional self-service and automated options, and we will make a continued effort to minimize as much impact to South Carolina's citizens as possible.

Representatives from the Department of Employment and Workforce will be available to address any concerns or questions at 10:30 am tomorrow, Tuesday, February 5th in the State House Tour Office Theatre.

If you should have any questions, comments and/or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the agency's legislative liaison Maura Dawson at mdawson@dew.sc.gov or 803-737-0233 or Assistant Executive Director for Unemployment Insurance Dr. Erica Von Nessen at evonnessen@dew.sc.gov or 803-543-1168

Thank you in advance for your understanding,

Kerry Paul, PHR

Chief of Staff

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

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