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Subject: Senate road funding bill

Katherine / Ted -

Just writing to say that I hope Governor Haley will not dismiss out of hand the road funding bill that emerged from Senate Finance last week. I won't say that I love it, but it is a big step in the right direction.

I my district, roads are what I hear the most about. When I say a tax fuel tax increase is the only long-term viable solution even the hard line, no-new-taxes tea party folks agree b/c it is obvious to them. We can't fund the 4th largest road system in the country with the 3rd lowest gas tax.

I know the governor isn't going to approve of a tax increase, but if we can issue bonds w/o increasing taxes then I would hope she would not dismiss that. The roads out here are falling apart. There has been ZERO \$s in state funds (other than paltry C funds) spent on secondary roads in Lancaster Cnty in the last three years. This year we are going to get around 3 miles of roads paved and the cost will be \$800,000 per mile b/c they are in such poor condition.

That's why it makes such poor business sense not to adequately fund our roads - the cost goes up every year. The car sales tax transfer is nice, but it isn't a long-term solution. Frankly, I don't believe there is a long term solution when only funds from the General Fund are considered as a source for additional funding. We need something big and bold. Otherwise, as Sec't St. Onge has stated, his role will be to manage the decline of our state's road system.

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