

From: Taylor, Richele  
To: LACKEY, PAMELA Ppl4151@att.com  
Date: 10/23/2016 9:06:53 PM  
Subject: Re: We need a MIRACLE!

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Thank you Pamela.

Richele K Taylor  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Office of the Governor  
South Carolina  
Direct 803-734-8465

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 23, 2016, at 8:31 AM, LACKEY, PAMELA P <pl4151@att.com> wrote:

I'm sure you all saw this. But wanted to be sure.

Pamela Lackey  
President, AT&T S.C.  
Sent from my iPad

AT&T Mobilizing Your World!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rep. Bill Taylor, SC House District 86" <bill@taylorschouse.com>  
Date: October 22, 2016 at 10:00:08 PM EDT  
To: <PL4151@att.com>  
Subject: We need a MIRACLE!  
Reply-To: <bill@taylorschouse.com>

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## We need a MIRACLE !

Dear Friends:

For many of us in South Carolina, Hurricane Matthew is in our rear-view mirror. For many others, however, the impact of the devastating storm lives on. Parts of the eastern portion of our state were hard hit. Fortunately, in many areas clean-up and rebuilding are underway.

### A Forgotten Town

The Town of Nichols is located in Marion County in the Pee Dee. It's just nine miles from the North Carolina border. This town of 445 residents was destroyed by Hurricane Matthew when 18" of rain and the flooding of two nearby rivers submerged the town.

I emphasize DESTROYED! Of the 261 homes, 236 suffered major or severe damage and are uninhabitable. Only two homes were unaffected. Every business, a total of 22, was lost. That includes the post office, bank, pharmacy, a doctor's office, two restaurants, convenience stores and other businesses

that suffered major flood damage. All six churches were flooded. Black mold is rampant.

This is a poor, rural town that WAS home to many elderly; 200 are still being sheltered in the Mullins National Guard Armory 7 miles away. Others have scattered. Most lost not only their homes and vehicles, but all their personal possessions. Many were rescued in the middle of night by boat or they fled to the Town Hall to be evacuated.

### "We Need a Miracle"

Mayor Lawson Battle is in the battle of his life - a battle to bring back life to the town he loves. Otherwise, it will die. I toured Nichols a few days ago. Sitting with a mayor in his office he choked back tears when talking about the plight of town residents. Mayor Battle said, "We need a miracle! "

Town Clerk Sandee Rogers works alongside the mayor in 18 hour days helping forge the future while wading through the seemingly insurmountable immediate challenges facing their town. Their tax base is gone; there's no money to pay the few town employees. She prays her town will come back and

This is what's left of NAPA Store

the citizens will be able to come home someday.

This isn't the 'tourist coast' which has the economy to rebuild. This is the forgotten place. Who will help?

### Government Help

Yes, there will be help from FEMA and the offer of loans to rebuild, but many in this town don't have the ability to borrow or repay. Some businesses have already said they won't return. They will need incentives to entice them back in these difficult times.

On my drive back to Aiken from Nichols I was on the phone with state leaders. House Speaker Jay Lucas will visit Nichols early this coming week. House Ways & Means Chairman Brian White tells me

he and his staff are working to find financial aid for hurricane victims. I very much appreciate their desire to help.

A Call to Arms: The Miracle is **YOU!**

The Mayor is looking for a miracle -- will you be their angel?

I told town officials they need to count on South Carolina's faith based groups that can provide the immediate help they need. This is a 'Call to Arms'!

Muster your church mission teams and bring the help that's so desperately needed to the people of Nichols. Homes need to be cleaned before all the damage can be assessed. That takes a lot of hard working hands.

#### Financial Aid

If you are motivated to contribute money to aid Nichols residents, a donation account has been established at the [Anderson Brothers Bank](#). This fund is authorized by the Town. Please avoid the GoFundMe accounts; there is no certainty they are legitimate.

DNR Officer and Rep. Bill Taylor with Nichols Town Clerk, Sandee Rogers

Donations of Clothing, Furniture, Personal Items, etc.

This week town officials will convert the Library in the Town Hall into a donation center to accept help for their residents. It will also serve as a place for them to congregate and make connections so they know they are not alone. I'm uncertain what specifically they need, but I suggested to them they list their needs on their [Facebook](#) page which was hastily created in the days following the hurricane.

#### Final Thought

I serve a large rural House District in Aiken County, so the plight of Nichols hit close to home and touched me. I hope this report touched you. South Carolinian's are resilient and don't wait around for help from the government, but the people of Nichols need your help. Let's take care of our neighbors.

#### **I'm Available and AT YOUR SERVICE**

If you need assistance navigating state government, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In your Service,

Photo of the Week

**Bill Taylor**

803-270-2012

Representative  
South Carolina General  
Assembly

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[www.Taylorschouse.com](http://www.Taylorschouse.com)

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Let's Keep Nichols  
and it's 445  
residence on the  
SC map.

South Carolinians  
help South  
Carolinians.

Let's create the  
miracle they need.

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Bill Taylor for SC House District 86, P.O. Box 2646, Aiken, SC 29801

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