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Subject: So Much to DO!

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So Much to DO!

Dear Friends:

With the wrap of gavels the S.C. House and Senate reconvened this week for the second half of the 121st session. It's a long haul from January to June, but I begin with high expectations that meaningful legislation will be passed contributing to an even better and stronger Palmetto State.

Legislative Scorecard

Thus far, 1602 bills have been filed this session with 131 being signed into law. That's 8%. In my view, it's good that so few have become law. Much of the proposed legislation isn't needed. Most often, the bills are just calling for more government intrusion into our daily lives and further restriction of our personal liberties. Intrusive, big brother government isn't helpful!

Halfway through the legislative session here's a scorecard of big issues:

We Have Much To Do!

The remaining list of significant legislative challenges is long. For a couple of big issues (i.e. roads and ethics) the burden rests with the Senate which is renowned for its deliberative oratory. Some of the high profile issues that are pending include:

- Determining best method for the long-term funding of road and bridge infrastructure needs.
- Restructuring SC DOT to eliminate waste and inefficiencies while restoring confidence.
- Transforming K-12 education to address the Abbeville Supreme Court ruling while bringing 21st Century education to all students.
- Providing financial aid to flood victims, including farmers who are being driven out of business.
- Tackling tax reform in a meaningful way. Lower the state income tax rate providing tax relief for citizens while being more competitive with our neighboring states.
- Determining the costly investment failures at the SC Retirement system and fix them.
- Updating SC's antiquated eminent domain law to better protect citizens.
- Protecting the 2nd Amendment and pass concealed weapons (CWP) reciprocity with Georgia.

Topping My Personal Priorities

In addition to the above list of critical issues, I add two more:

1. Saving America : As the primary sponsor of the Article V Convention of States (COS) initiative, I will continue to do everything possible to win passage of this legislation.

Momentum is building in SC and nationwide with the endorsement of Article V by several presidential candidates. Article V is the only lawful and orderly process our Founders gave us to corral an out-of-control federal government. It's time we trust the Constitution, all of it, including Article V. We must use it to get America back on course.

2. Government Transparency : We're closing in on the finish line to improve SC's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) - something I have championed every step of the way since being elected. The House approved FOIA legislation last year and it's hoped the Senate will follow. This bill provides far more government transparency at all levels and make it much easier and less expensive for citizens to quickly get government information without being hassled.

[This Week's Legislative Headlines](#)

Mopeds: The House gave final passage to comprehensive moped legislation ([H.3440](#)) calling for mopeds to be registered and moped riders to be licensed and insured. And yes, mopeds would finally have to follow all traffic laws.

Help for Terminally-Ill : A state Senate panel advanced a bill that would give terminally-ill individuals in South Carolina the right to have access to medications that are in clinical trials.

Teacher Pay: Gov. Haley proposed for SC to pay the full college tuition costs of future teachers, provided those teachers are willing to work for eight years in struggling, high-turnover school districts.

[I'm Available](#)

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. If you need help navigating state government, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In your Service,

Bill Taylor

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[Photo of the Week](#)

My wife, Donna, and I were pleased to be on hand for the Republican presidential debate last evening in North Charleston. For the most part it was a substantive discussion of the critical issues and challenges facing America. In these weeks preceding the first in-the-south presidential primary, we each need to carefully evaluate each candidate's positions and measure their character and leadership abilities to make the best and most informed decision on Election Day. How South Carolina votes sends a message to the rest of America!

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