

**From:** Sen. Tom Young <tom@tomyoungforsenate.com>  
**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 1/25/2016 9:04:41 AM  
**Subject:** State of the State and Tire Industry -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- January 18 to 25, 2016

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### **State of the State and Tire Industry -- Update from January 18 to 25, 2016**

The legislature returned to session last week. I hope that you find this update helpful and informative. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the South Carolina State Senate.

#### **State Government News**

**Governor's State of the State Address :** Last Wednesday, Governor Haley delivered her State of the State address. She reflected on the challenges of 2015 including the October floods and the Charleston shootings; called for ethics reform; emphasized the need for more work force development progress; advocated for her education initiatives to improve teacher quality and recruitment in rural schools; and reiterated that any road and bridge funding proposal must include reform of the S.C. Dept. of Transportation and a cut in the state's income tax rates. To see the full text, go [here](#).

**State Tax Refunds :** Last week, the S.C. Dept. of Revenue (DOR) announced that it is implementing new technology and fraud detection this year which will delay processing of early tax returns. For returns filed before March 1, DOR expects to issue refunds by the end of March which is later than normal. To learn more, go [here](#).

**SCDOT Roads Report :** Last week, SCDOT released its latest report on the "State of the SCDOT." The SCDOT maintains over 41,000 miles of roads -- the 4th largest state maintained system in the nation. The Department estimates that 9% of the interstate system is in poor condition but nearly half of the primary and secondary system is in poor condition. To see the report, go [here](#).

**Legislative Prayer Caucus Started:** On Wednesday, I joined over 70 other Senators and Representatives in officially starting the S.C. Legislative Prayer Caucus as a show of support for religious freedom and for prayer for our state and

nation.

**Legislative Scorecard** : Last Thursday, the S.C. Club for Growth released its 2015 scorecard and I scored a perfect 100 being one of five members of the General Assembly to do so. To learn more, go [here](#).

### **S.C. Tire Industry**

**Top Tire Producer** : Our state leads the nation in the production of tires with 99,000 produced each day. Currently, Bridgestone, Michelin, and Continental operate plants in South Carolina employing nearly 11,000 people. An additional 3,000 jobs are coming with new plants by Trelleborg Wheel Systems Americas, Inc. and Giti Tire Group as well as expansion projects at other existing facilities.

**Top Tire Exporter** : South Carolina leads the nation in tire exports too accounting for over 30% of the nation's overseas market which is nearly four times as much as the next closest state (Ohio).

**Bridgestone** : Locally, we are both proud and fortunate to be home to two of Bridgestone's North American tire manufacturing facilities. The first plant is the passenger tire plant and the second is the off-road radial tire plant. Together, the two plants employ more than 1,700 people in Aiken County.

### **Local News**

**Congratulations to Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce Award Winners!** : Congratulations to this year's award winners from the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce as follows: Man of the Year: Frank Thomas; Woman of the Year: Becky Robbins; Large Business of the Year: Savannah River Remediation, LLC ; Small Business of the Year: Aiken Active Seniors.

**New Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer** : Major Dwight Bradham is the new Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer. He can be reached at [642-1545](tel:642-1545) by phone and at [dbradham@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:dbradham@aikencountysc.gov) by email. If you have any veteran-related issue, please call the office for assistance. You can follow that office on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/AikenVA](http://www.Facebook.com/AikenVA) and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/VA\\_Aiken](http://www.twitter.com/VA_Aiken).

**Suicide Prevention** : Mental Health America of Aiken County recently developed an informative website on the issue of suicide prevention in our community. To learn more, go [here](#).

**SRS Heritage Foundation** : To see the latest newsletter for the SRS Heritage Foundation, go [here](#). Many residents in Senate District 24 are current or former employees of companies located at SRS.

**Honor Flight South Carolina** : Honor Flight takes World War II and Korean War veterans to Washington, DC so that they can see and experience the war memorials. The veterans do not pay for the one day trip. They are looking for WWII and Korean War veterans to go on the next flight which is this Spring. This may be the last trip as seen in this recent new [story](#). To learn more and to see the

application, go [here](#).

**Volunteer in Local Schools:** If you would like to help with educating our children, consider volunteering in our local schools. To learn more, go [here](#). Thank you to the Aiken Downtown Rotary Club for putting together this list of opportunities.

**Aiken County Legislative Delegation Office** : The local legislative delegation office is staffed by the delegation secretary Jeannie Cadden in the Aiken County Government Building on University Parkway. Ms. Cadden works on both Aiken County and Edgefield County legislative and constituent matters. One of the services provided by our local delegation office is the processing of paperwork associated with becoming a notary public. If you need help with this or other matters, let me know by responding to this email or call Jeannie in the delegation office at [642-1694](tel:642-1694).

### Other News of Interest

**Faith Magazine article** : A *Faith Magazine* has an article about my public service and faith which can be seen [here](#).

**SRS Retiree Association – Retiree Resource Center Help** : The SRS Retiree Association has established a SRS Retiree Resource Center in Aiken. To learn more about what services this office can provide, go [here](#).

**Nonprofits and Raffles** : Since April 4, nonprofits may legally conduct raffles in South Carolina to raise funds for their charitable purposes. For the new law, the Secretary of State created a frequently asked questions list which can be seen [here](#). If you have more questions, please call the Charities Division of the Secretary of State at [\(803\) 734-1790](tel:803-734-1790).

**Cardiac Arrest** : For a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation, go to [www.heartrescuenow.com](http://www.heartrescuenow.com).

**Special Needs Children – Help for Parents and Caregivers** : The South Carolina Bar developed a handbook for parents of special needs children. An online version of the handbook is available [here](#).

**Teens and Texting** : Texting while driving amongst younger drivers remains a problem. The State of South Carolina's anti-texting law went into effect on December 7, 2014. There is an anti-texting app which parents can use to keep their teen from texting while driving. To learn more, go [here](#).

### Constituent Information

**Legislative Email Updates** : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): [bill@billhixon.com](mailto:bill@billhixon.com)
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): [bill@taylorscheuse.com](mailto:bill@taylorscheuse.com)

- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): [dwells29801@gmail.com](mailto:dwells29801@gmail.com)

**Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information** : Congressman Wilson represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [642-6416](tel:642-6416).

**Speaking with Groups Around the District** : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

**State Government Resources** : Several online resources are available to you for learning more about our State Government. These resources include the following websites which can be accessed as follows: General Assembly's website -- go [here](#); Executive Budget Office -- go [here](#); State Library -- go [here](#); Legislative Audit Council -- go [here](#); Governor's Office -- go [here](#); and State Fiscal Transparency information, go [here](#).

**Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government** : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

**Facebook** : I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. Please "like" the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

**Tom Young's Website** : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

**Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce** : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan** : South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go [here](#).

**Donate Life** : You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or [here](#).

**Child Passenger Safety** : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go [here](#). The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

**Request a Flag** : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com). Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

**State House Tours** : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling [\(803\) 734-2430](tel:803-734-2430) or by going [here](#). If you set a tour between January and June and it is on

a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you. The State House is open on Saturdays for guided and unguided tours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**South Carolina Tourism** : To learn more about tourist attractions and tourism opportunities in South Carolina, go [here](#).

**Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization** : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, go [here](#).

**SC BBQ Trail** : According to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, our state is the birthplace of barbecue in the United States and is the only state that offers all four official barbecue sauces. To see the official map with more than 200 restaurant listings, go [here](#). Another helpful site can be seen [here](#).

**Aiken County Tourism** : To learn more about tourism options in Aiken County, go [here](#).

**Email Updates** : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

**Road Issues** : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or Aiken County at [642-1532](tel:642-1532) to report the problem. You may also report the repair request online [here](#). If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com) or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young  
649-0000 (o)  
215-3631 (cell)

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