

**From:** Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>  
**To:** Katherine Veldrankveldran@gmail.com  
**Date:** 2/13/2015 3:07:05 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: wow – that just happened

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ashley Landess <ashleyl@scpolicycouncil.org>  
**Date:** February 12, 2015 at 2:35:06 PM EST  
**To:** Katherine <katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov>  
**Subject:** wow – that just happened  
**Reply-To:** Ashley Landess <ashleyl@scpolicycouncil.org>

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Hi Katherine,

A quick update on the ethics legislation I told you about two days ago. The Senate took up the long, complicated “omnibus” bill yesterday afternoon, and after a contentious and confusing debate, the bill was killed. I admit – that surprised me. But given what was in that legislation – a largely meaningless income disclosure requirement, for example, and a new provision that would have made the current system of self-policing *worse* – it was good news.

We’ll keep you in the loop as other ethics-related bills come up.

Now, the other big issue this year is road funding. Many lawmakers, as you know, seem to think the only way to solve a problem is to dump money into it – and to do that they have to raise taxes.

That’s certainly been the case so far this year, with even many “conservative” lawmakers signing on to a hike in the gasoline tax. Accordingly, Gov. Haley’s tax-hike plan was introduced in the House yesterday – our [brief analysis](#) of the bill was posted this afternoon. Another plan getting lots of attention – this one sponsored by Rep. Gary Simrill and similarly including tax hikes – was also introduced yesterday (our analysis [here](#)).

If you only take away one thing from this whole debate, though, it should be this: that most of the analysis being pushed by politicians *simply isn’t based in reality*. You might have heard about DOT’s \$1.5 billion yearly shortfall ... Well the company that came up with *that*

number has [received almost \\$13 million from state taxpayers](#) and is likely to receive more. Hardly an objective source!

We call it “State House Economics,” and if you want to see just how unrealistic and misleading this debate has become, [take a look](#).

I hope this helps. Do let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks for staying engaged.

Take care,

**E. Ashley Landess, President**

South Carolina Policy Council

1323 Pendleton Street

Columbia, SC 29201

803-779-5022

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