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Subject: Taking Cues from Trump

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Taking Cues from Trump

Dear Friends:

The S.C. General Assembly gets back to work tomorrow. This week the House and Senate go through the ritual of getting organized for the 122nd session by electing leadership and a couple of special committees while members receive their committee assignments and find out what desk on the floor that will be their home base for the next two years.

In my view, that's where routine business should end.

Look North to the Washington Whirlwind

A whirlwind is about the sweep into Washington D.C. President-Elect Donald Trump is already taking over the inside-the-beltway political system. He's unorthodox. His critics accuse him of being un-presidential in style and tone. Good! I predict he's actually going to get things done in a town with a mindset that little is actually accomplished. Congress has exemplified the place where good ideas for fixing what's wrong get buried

Donald Trump will get things done while the political elites protest,
"That's not the way we do it."

Rush Limbaugh said it well: "I don't think either party has any idea what's headed their way. Their business is to remain mired in process. They call it deliberation, thoughtful, reasonable deliberation. Trump doesn't know any of that. To him, process is delay. Process is obfuscation. Process is incompetence. People engaging in process are a bunch of people masking the fact they don't know what they're doing, and he has no time for 'em and no patience."

Donald Trump has been elected to do specific things and he's committed to getting those things done swiftly over the resistance of those who want government to be business-as-usual.

Taking Our Cue from Trump

The S.C. General Assembly needs to heed the changing political winds. In our state all too often big issues are dragged out over the two year session only to die a slow death or be resurrected in the final moments of the two year session (that will be in May 2018 this time around). It gets even worse when it's privately acknowledged that sometimes good legislation needs to be introduced over several terms (4 years or more) before it's taken seriously. That's not good enough. Our state has major issues to address. As example...

- Finding the long-term funds needed to fix our roads and bridges.
- Solving the state pension crisis that's costing taxpayers \$4.1 million a day (\$171,000 per hour) in additional interest expense on the unfunded liability.
- Restructuring our tax system to make it fairer and flatter while not raising taxes. (A House committee on which I serve is doing a deep dive into this to recommend solutions.)
- Funding government's top priority of public safety by bolstering the depleted Trooper ranks and fixing the dangerous shortage of prison guards.
- Bringing educational choice to parents in similar ways to what's being done successfully in so many other states. Our kids deserve a world class education and not be locked into an educational "system" that was designed after the Civil War for an agrarian society.

That's just the top of a long list of challenges we face in S.C.

The Hope of a New Governor

Gov. Nikki Haley will soon become the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. We wish her well and our proud that S.C. will be represented at the highest level in world diplomacy.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will soon step into the Governor's office. He's a seasoned political pro and knows how to work well with legislators. Hopefully, like Trump (the candidate for whom he vigorously campaigned), Gov. McMaster's will also be in a hurry to get good things accomplished for South Carolina.

To my colleagues, why wait? Why drag out the political process like every other session? Let's change the way we do business and better serve the people that sent us to the Statehouse to represent them.

Republicans in the General Assembly are more than a simple majority. They occupy nearly two-thirds of the seats in the legislature: 80 of the 124 seats in the House and 28 of 46 in the Senate. With that large majority and the new governor eager to work with us, imagine how swiftly we can tackle big issues. If legislators have the "political will" we have the "way" to accomplish great things for South Carolina.

Let's get moving!

In your Service,

Bill Taylor

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Representative

South Carolina General
Assembly

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Photo of the Week

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'Tis the Season!

This past weekend I participated in two Christmas parades, one in Wagener the other in Windsor. Next Sunday at 2:00 p.m. the Aiken Jaycees host Aiken's Annual Christmas Parade downtown. It's a huge parade and is televised. I hope you'll join us downtown for the celebration.

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