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Dear Governor Haley,

It came as no surprise to me when I saw that South Carolina drivers were ranked the third worst in the country. I live in Charleston and work in Greenville so I spend a lot of time on the road. Every Monday morning and Wednesday evening I witness the aggressive driving of South Carolinians first hand.

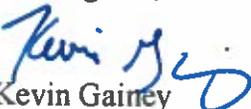
I do what I can to reduce my risks on the road. I wear my seat belt, don't drive distracted, don't drink and drive, and don't drive excessively fast. But all I do can not protect me from the other drivers on the road. I am not a NASCAR driver. However many of my fellow South Carolinians think they are and have decided to use the public road system as their own personal race track. I will admit that I am not perfect and I often drive 10 mph over the speed limit myself. But I can't tell you how many times I have been driving 80 only to be left in the dust by another driver going 90 or 100. On top of the excessive speeds many drivers feel that it is appropriate to follow very closely at high speeds. I try to stay in the right lane when driving because of the countless times I have looked in the rear view mirror and seen nothing but the headlights of a pickup truck 10 ft behind me.

I don't need to tell you that South Carolina has the highest rate of motor vehicle deaths in the country. I know you have seen the statistics. The SC DOT goal of "Target Zero" traffic fatalities is a lofty and worthwhile goal. But every week I see the number of deaths tick upward on the marquee on I26. This week it was at **814 deaths**. I can't help but wonder why I don't see the Highway Patrol on my drive. I have been driving I26 and I385 between Charleston and Greenville weekly for a year now. In that time I have probably seen someone pulled over less than 10 times and many of those were in one week. If SC wishes to reduce traffic fatalities the first step needs to be enforcing the law. Of the 16 high risk corridors that have been identified by Target Zero, three of them are on my weekly commute, yet I do not see any effort to combat speeding or careless driving in these areas. Instead I see drivers emboldened to drive however they please because of a lack of law enforcement. People have little inclination to follow laws that are not enforced.

South Carolina motorists have two serious problems – roads that are in poor condition and roads that are dangerous. I offer a simple solution that can help fix both these problems. Please have the Highway Patrol enforce the traffic laws! The increased revenue from fines can help pay to fix our roads and the increased presence of law enforcement will keep aggressive drivers in check.

Congratulations on your new position with the Trump administration. I hate to see you go but know you will do a great job!

Best regards,


Kevin Gainey