

INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE*

Thursday, January 21, 2016

Commerce:

Volvo's XC90 was named the 2016 North American Truck of the Year recently at the Detroit Auto Show. Additionally, Hakan Samuelsson was featured as one of Car and Driver's automotive top executives in its December 2015 issue.

Cabinet Appointments:

DOT – Christy Hall received a unanimous favorable report out of Transportation Committee yesterday. Very few questions were asked, and many Senators commended her on the leadership and sound judgement she displayed during the flood.

DPS – Leroy Smith's packet was delivered to the Senate Clerk's office yesterday afternoon.

Boards:

The following appointments were referred to Committee today –
Philip G. Homan, State Tech Board, 7th District (Education Committee)
Devron Edwards, CHE, At-large (Education Committee)
Lamont Flowers, Minority Affairs (Judiciary Committee)
Steve Mudge, Public Service Authority (Screening Committee then Judiciary Committee)
Jonathan Stackhouse, Real Estate Commission (LCI Committee)
Bradley Keefer, Podiatry Board (Medical Affairs)
Elizabeth Bunge, Speech Pathology and Audiology Board (Medical Affairs)

SC DOT:

The South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, unanimously elected Mike Wooten of the 7th Congressional District as the new Chairman of the SCDOT Commission.

The Commission also unanimously elected John N. Hardee of the 2nd Congressional District as the new Vice Chairman of the SCDOT Commission.

Unsafe Tire Bill

Lewis Gossett called our office about H.3430, the Unsafe Used Tire Bill, and Continental Tire reps have sent me info on the bill. This bill would make it unlawful to install or sell a tire that the person knew or should have known is unsafe, which is defined in the bill. According to Lewis, the used tire sales industry and junkyards oppose this bill. Senator Sheheen has added his name to the bill and apparently refuses to take it off to allow for debate. Recall, last year the

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Chamber of Commerce pushed this bill and our office decided not to get involved. The SCMA and tire companies seem to think the DMV currently has the statutory authority to address this issue through regulation and are asking for our help with DMV. According to Lewis, the tire companies may ask you for your help when you have dinner with them Tuesday night.

First Steps Meeting

Staff will hold a meeting on Thursday, January 28th to discuss First Steps restructuring. Confirmed attendees for the meeting as of today include: Dr. Dan Wuori, Melanie Barton, Molly Spearman, Mike Brenan, Dave Wilson, Alexia Newman, Christian Soura, and Sen. Nikki Setzler

Sen. Fair said he would hold on introducing legislation that would reauthorize First Steps (for 5 years) because of the meeting. He worked with Rep. Erickson to hold on dropping the companion bill in the house.

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