

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201



Re: H. Cooper Black Field Trial and Recreation Area

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of the Master National Retriever Club (MNRC) I am writing to thank you, the State of South Carolina, and especially the staff at H. Cooper Black for the warm hospitality extended to us.

The MNRC held the 24th annual Master National Retriever Hunt Test at H. Cooper Black from October 16 through October 25, 2015. During the event and in the months leading up to the event Park Manager Butch Driggers and his staff went out of their way to ensure the event's success. They were proactive, engaged, supportive and responded cordially to every request. It is not an overstatement to say that the event's success was largely due to their efforts.

The Master National is an annual invitational event licensed by the American Kennel Club. Its purpose is to showcase the best hunting retriever and handler teams from across the country. This year's event was the largest sporting dog event ever held under AKC auspices. There were 916 dogs entered from 43 states. An estimated 850 people traveled to the area beginning in mid-October to prepare for and run in the event. The communities of Cheraw, Hartsville, Camden and Florence all benefited from those visitors.

South Carolina is indeed fortunate to have the grounds and the staff of H. Cooper Black available to the public. In my opinion there is no comparable public facility on the east coast. The Master National rotates through four regions across the country and will return to the east in 2019. We look forward to the opportunity to return to South Carolina.

Sincerely;

Jace Tramontin
President, MNRC
3891 Hartman Road
Iron, MN 55751