

From: Deana Baker <deanachavisbaker@att.net>
To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 2/14/2018 6:22:39 PM
Subject: SC Litter Issue - PLEASE Add to Your Campaign

Dear Mr. Bryant:

Thank you for your recent visit to Seneca during your campaign for Governor of our great state of South Carolina. I am really disappointed that I was unable to have the honor of seeing you at the three places you visited. I believe you are a qualified candidate for Governor. I am a SC native and current resident of Seneca/ Oconee County. I have additionally lived and worked in Anderson, Clemson, and Salem since 1993.

May I ask you if the huge litter issue on our highways, roads, and streets, as well as public spaces is on your agenda? Did you see all the litter on HWY 123 or any other places in which you traveled from Columbia. If you didn't, then I would be completely shocked since it is everywhere and I travel a lot on highways, county roads, and streets all over this state. It looks like the landfill while driving as if it's falling by the bags full from the sky. There has been a very alarming and significant increase in the amount of trash littered. And, I don't just mean a few types of things. Construction materials, full bags of household garbage, refrigerators, coolers, etc. I know the biggest reason. It's because we have GROWN in our suburb, city, and county populations, and the laws we have in place for transporting trash with covers (tarps, etc to County Convenience Centers or city dumpsters is NOT being enforced. Residents are overloading their uncovered vehicles due to not carry their trash weekly but maybe monthly or whenever they get a full load or overload, then full bags are falling out of the vehicle or transporter. And yes, there are those who just throw their fast food, beer and drink cans, cigarette butts, water bottles, etc. out of the car window or place in parking spaces wherever and whenever they feel like it even though there are trash receptacles everywhere most often only several feet near them. It's truly a tragedy for such a state dependent on tourism revenue. We must protect our states valuable resources better!

I see your campaign as a golden opportunity. Using prisoners or volunteers is not the solution. They are not the offenders of the litter crimes, unless only we are using prisoners who are in prison for littering. I don't believe that is the case. The point is to STOP the CAUSE. Think of all the revenue and cleanup results there would be if you consider this solution: If a SC resident utilizing a County or City manned or supervised Convenience Center (dump center/landfill) shows up to unload their vehicle or transporter and it is NOT covered, then they are fined right then. Also, just position law enforcement a mile or so before the centers, and I guarantee there will be so many offenders and fines collected the state will have a huge SURPLUS of cash. TRASH into CASH program. That's what I'd call it. Also, another suggestive solution is to sell TARPS at the centers, for a profit, and write warnings or tickets if they appear at center without covering. We need billboards to educate about this issue and what the fines will be, because you can't see the Litter Fine signs out there now, print is too small. No one even notices.

Lastly, I do realize we have a state department who handles the litter issues, but let's face, it's not effective...it needs overhauling. Ask anyone who drives around South Carolina without blinders on. If something isn't done soon, we will all be walking and driving in the trash and no one will want to live, work, or visit this state. Thank you for your time and consideration of my ideas and input. I remain dedicated to cleaning up our state on a weekly basis, but your help is needed. Good luck in your campaign and thank you for your service in South Carolina. (BTW, my son is also a graduate of T.L. Hanna HS. He is a Master Sergeant/Senior NCO in the US Air Force.)

Respectfully,

Deana C. Baker
112 Oxford Circle, Seneca, SC 29678
864.364.7192