

Briefly, I have over 25 years of progressive experience in management, from department head to C-Level. I have worked with, directed, as well as built and restructured manufacturers both domestically and internationally.

Please do not misinterpret my intentions, I am not asking you for a job, however, I do feel that your opinions and suggestions on this subject would be most beneficial in helping me achieve my goal of finding employment here in South Carolina and supporting my family.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jay A Burkhart".

Jay A Burkhart

Jay A. Burkhart

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February 18, 2015

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

Dear Governor Haley:

Having lived in South Carolina since 2008, I would first like to commend you and the fantastic job you have done and are doing for our great state. I have been a supporter of you since you first announced your candidacy for governor. Raising two daughters by myself, I like to encourage them by discussing successful women during our dinner conversations; of course you being our Governor are a wonderful example.

My family has been coming to South Carolina since the late 60s when my father purchased a house and some property in Charleston and Mt. Pleasant. Two of my brothers and myself graduated from The Citadel and the oldest married a girl from Mt Pleasant and stayed here. I moved down to South Carolina when two separate incidents occurred. The first was the company I was working for was sold and my division was transferred to Denton, Texas. Two weeks later my oldest daughter was assaulted at college. Her doctors said that she needed a change of scenery. Being a single parent since 2003 and not knowing anyone in Texas, I decided to realize my dream of living in South Carolina. I was able to procure a job and so we packed up our home in Connecticut and headed south. We could not have moved at a worst time, the job I had been hired for was eliminated before we arrived.

Since arriving I have had a difficult time finding employment. The reason I hear most often is that I am over qualified. I have worked with two different career coaches, as well as the alumni center at The Citadel. Mayor Riley met with me and offered several suggestions and I have reached out to Representative Chip Limehouse who has been unable to meet with me so far. When Boeing announced their move to Charleston, I like many others were excited for this opportunity. I have been applying to them since they started advertising and met with one human resource manager but nothing beyond that meeting has occurred.

When you announced recently that South Carolina has produced over 60,000 new jobs, it lifted my spirits. I have lost my home and all my savings since moving here. I have worked hard all my life and have never had trouble finding employment until I moved here. I was even able to change fields seamlessly when I became a single parent and could not travel. When I moved from the medical to the apparel field, I was able to rise quickly and was made vice-president of the division within one year.