

INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE*

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Executive Budget:

Josh and David held three budget hearing with the following agencies: DDSN, PEBA, and Education Oversight Commission. There are three more budget hearing scheduled for tomorrow.

Refugee Resettlement Program:

On October 20th, the Anderson County Council adopted a resolution to not approve or proceed with the Refugee Resettlement program and also called on SC officials to cease and desist from participating in the program. In addition, a citizens group of 350 members in Pickens County called, Conservatives of the Upstate (COTU), also passed a resolution containing similar sentiments. Other entities – such as county councils, GOP county chairmen, churches, etc. – are anticipated to pass similar resolutions as well.

Legal – Executive Orders:

For National Guard – Today, General Livingston refined his request for an extension of 50 Guardsmen to remain on State Active Duty status to the following: 40 troops to make emergency road repairs on 9-14 county roads in Clarendon County; and 10 troops to assist with emergency repairs at the Columbia Canal. The missions should be completed before Thanksgiving and are estimated to cost \$200,000-250,000. Pending confirmation from FEMA/EMD that these projects are eligible work (i.e. FEMA reimbursable), we will have an Executive Order prepared for the Governor's signature tomorrow. Note that the order will not declare a State of Emergency – the Governor may activate the Guard to support local emergencies under her own specific statutory authority.

For Truckers – The Governor's Executive Order waiving federal regulations for hours of service limitations for commercial truck drivers expires this weekend. The forestry and timber industry has requested another 30 day waiver to help expedite clearing debris and other recovery efforts. We will also have this order prepared for the Governor's signature tomorrow.

Other:

Becca talked to Bill Price today. We will organize a constituent meeting with representatives from DHEC, EMD, and DNR next week to address their questions about dam failures and rebuilding, debris in dam spillways, and various types of government assistance (PA, IA, NFIP, HMGP, etc.). They have attended Columbia area town halls but would like a smaller setting to ask questions. He was very appreciative.

~~HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ASHTON!~*~*

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