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Subject: Farmers, Education, and Cedar Creek WIN! Roads Just Talk, Talk, Talk!

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Farmers, Education, and Cedar Creek WIN! Roads Just Talk, Talk, Talk

Dear Friends:

The focus this week for the SC House of Representatives was to help farmers devastated by the flooding, take major steps forward improving K-12 public education and finalize the first draft of the state budget for next year so debate can begin.

Emergency Aid for Farmers

The House voted overwhelmingly (95-6) to approve legislation that provides assistance to farmers in disaster-declared counties as a result of the historic October flooding. The legislation now goes to the Senate. During floor debate I told of some farmers in eastern Aiken County who suffered from 20 inches of rain and flooded crops. I said, "Some of those farmers are on their last leg. They're selling their tractors just to make payments, just to feed their families."

SC Farm Aid Legislation

The bill ([H.4717](#)) allows effected farmers to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 each, covering no more than 20 percent of their total loss. The grants are meant to provide a revenue bridge so farmers can plant next season and aren't forced to literally sell the farm. House Ways & Means Chairman Brian White explains in this video.

Education Reform Moves Forward

Five separate pieces of legislation aimed at transforming SC's public education delivery system were passed overwhelmingly by the House. These bills were crafted based on the findings of the House Education Policy and Review Task Force brought on by the Abbeville Supreme Court decision. That group found that the best way to achieve improvement in K-12 education is not to react by giving schools more money and hope for a quick fix, but to move positively by opening doors to 21st century education. The bills head to the Senate ([H.4936](#), [H.4937](#), [H.4938](#), [H.4939](#), [H.4941](#)).

\$7.5 Billion Budget

After months of hearings, the House Ways & Means Committee sent its General Fund budget proposal to the House floor for debate. The spending plan for the fiscal year starting July 1 incorporates more than \$1 billion in additional revenue.

Filibuster Blocks Road Bill in Senate

A Senate filibuster against a road funding bill continued this week with one senator threatening to continue talking, with the help of five other senators, until the end of the session in June, if necessary, to prevent a gas tax increase. Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman said, "It looks like we are not going anywhere fast." Another senator said, "We're on trial...the people of South Carolina are watching. Please restore the people's confidence." Ted Pitts, president and CEO of the State Chamber of Commerce, pleaded with senators to "stop wasting time." Watching the Senate's inability to act is why the House put \$250 million for road repairs in its proposed state budget.

Great News!

Aiken Roads Being Paved

Road resurfacing projects are moving forward in Aiken County. Thanks, in part, to additional road funds sent directly to Aiken County in the current year state budget, 47 miles of roads in Aiken County are being resurfaced over the next several months. These include portions of Ascauga Lake Rd, Langley Dam Rd, Sudlow Lake Rd, Reynolds Pond Rd, Wire Rd, Carolina Springs Rd, Womrath Rd, Shiloh Church Rd, Dibble Rd, Old Dibble Rd, 4th St/Coleman St. and CCC Rd.

It Keeps Getting Better!

The movement calling for an Article V Convention of States is having unprecedented success!

In the past six weeks citizen activists have netted 14 committee victories in Arizona, Missouri, Tennessee, Indiana, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia and West Virginia.

AND 7 Floor Wins! (Arizona House, Indiana Senate, New Mexico House, South Dakota House, Virginia House and the West Virginia Senate.)

Best of all, the Tennessee House passed the Article V resolution, making Tennessee the 5th state to have passed the Convention of States resolution through both chambers!!!

Meanwhile, in South Carolina, an army of more than 6,000 citizen activist are working hard to win approval for the Convention of States Application in the General Assembly. Watch your neighbors in action.

Together Again!

Cedar Creek Voting Precinct Reunited

The House passed a bill which corrects a computer drafting error as to the Cedar Creek 64 voting precinct boundary line which resulted in a portion of that neighborhood being sent to Montmorenci to cast ballots. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature and is expected to take effect as of the June Primary Election.

I'm Available

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. If you need assistance navigating state government, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

[Click Here](#)

In your Service,

Bill Taylor

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Photo of the Week

It was the annual FFA Day at the Statehouse this week. Rep. Bill Clyburn & I welcomed the Future Farmer students from Ridge Spring-Monetta High School along with their advisor, Michael Crim. The students (L-R first row) Jason Powell, Cyrus McGuffin & Andrew Long. Second row: Noah Scott & Jimmy Lee Rauton.

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