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Subject: A Win for ROADS

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A Win for ROADS!

Dear Friends:

Increased funding to patch and repair SC's roads and bridges was priority #1 this week during the budget debate in the SC House of Representatives. A sizeable portion of Tuesday's 15 hours of debate focused on various approaches to road funding as we voted on next year's state budget which takes effect July 1.

Road Funding Wins Big!

The House budget calls for \$415 million ADDITIONAL dollars to be spent on improving our state's roads. This is in addition to the state gas tax revenues which goes directly to SCDOT.

Here's a breakdown of the additional funding:

As we neared the midnight hour Tuesday, House Republicans soundly defeated the attempt by Democrats to raise the state's gas tax by 10-cents/gal.

CWP Reciprocity with GA Moves Forward

The likelihood that SC will recognize Georgia's concealed weapons permits (CWP) took a major step forward today. A Senate panel unanimously approved the bill after an hour of testimony and sent it to the full Judiciary Committee. The bill, initiated primarily by the Aiken County legislative delegation, won approval in the House last year. I testified in support of the bill as did Rep. Bill Hixon, Rep. Chris Corley and the NRA.

Senate Approves Refugee Bill

The SC Senate approved a state registry of refugees, just one day after terrorists bombed a Brussels

airport and subway station, killing more than 30 people and injuring another 250. The Senate voted 39-6 to start the registry, which could be the first of its kind in the nation. The proposal still needs approval from the House. Registry backers said they are concerned terrorists could enter the state under the guise of being refugees. Several dozen refugees entered South Carolina last year, and an estimated 200 will arrive in the state this year. New York is the only other state considering a refugee registry.

Police Dashcam Bill Advances

A Senate committee advanced a bill that would require the release of police dashboard camera video in officer-involved shootings and sent the bill to the Senate floor for debate. Under current law the release of the video can be kept secret if the investigating agency, usually the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), says its release may harm their investigation. This bill would require a judge to make the final decision on whether video could be made public. The judge must cite clear and convincing evidence if footage could not be released.

No Dumping Ground

Gov. Nikki Haley told the federal government this week to either stop Japanese shipments of plutonium from going to the Savannah River Site or reroute the plutonium so that it doesn't enter South Carolina. She says she doesn't want SC to become a "permanent nuclear dumping ground." Reportedly, ships carrying 331 kilograms of weapons-grade plutonium from Japan will soon dock at the Charleston Naval Weapons Station before the plutonium is sent to the Savannah River Site here in Aiken County.

USCA Wins Advanced Manufacturing Center

Good news came late today that USC Aiken has been selected as the proposed site for the new Savannah River National Lab's Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC). Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), as operator of the SRNL, has selected the Aiken Advanced Manufacturing Partnership to develop a proposal for a 70,000 square foot space to house the AMC. The Aiken Advanced Manufacturing Partnership is a collaboration made up of twelve different partner groups, including USC Aiken, which will be integral to various aspects of the ultimate design, finance, construction, and operation of the facility that will include chemistry, engineering, and fabrication labs, work and office spaces, and public spaces dedicated to promote partnerships between industry, academia, and government in the creation and implementation of new technology.

Aiken County Calendar

Where Horses Fly : Looks like we may dodge scattered shower for Saturday's Annual Steeplechase Race. The race attracts an estimated 30,000 people to Aiken. Gates open at 9:30 a.m. First race is 1:00 p.m. ([More Information](#))

Earth Day Coming : Aiken's 2nd EARTH DAY celebration in downtown's Newberry Street Festival Center will be Saturday, April 23, from 9:30am-3pm. 30-plus exhibitors along with food vendors, entertainment for children, and a People Chase Fun Run to start it off. ([More Information](#))

Happy Easter

The House of Representatives is on its annual Easter furlough for the next two weeks. If you're able to get away with your family over spring break, I pray you have safe travels and much family fun. From our family to yours, we wish you a very Happy Easter!

I'm Available and AT YOUR SERVICE

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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newsletter is not a
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Photos of the Week

The Candy Man!

When you spend the day voting on the state budget, chocolate helps when energy lags. I keep a large jar of candy on my House desk, but every so often I circulate the House Chambers to make certain the Clerk's staff gets their 'energy boost', too.

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