

Title: **Lawmakers pass bill banning abortion after 19 weeks in SC**  
 Author: BY SEANNA AD COX Associated Press  
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# Lawmakers pass bill banning abortion after 19 weeks in SC

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press  
COLUMBIA

The South Carolina Legislature passed a bill Tuesday prohibiting abortion after 19 weeks, becoming the 17th state to pass the restrictive ban.

The legislation will now head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The Republican said in March she will almost certainly sign it but wants to look at the details once it reaches her desk.

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states. They've been blocked by court challenges in three others, and the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule on the ban's constitutionality. A South Dakota law signed in March takes effect this summer.

In Utah, a related law, also signed in March, requires doctors to provide anesthesia to a fetus at least 20 weeks in the womb.

The South Carolina bill is among several fronts abortion rights supporters say make having the procedure tougher. Abortion opponents have also passed laws in other states requiring clinics to get admitting privileges for doctors and banning a procedure commonly used in the second trimester, known as an evacuation

method.

The South Carolina House approved the bill 79-29. The Senate approved a compromise in March.

The ban allows exceptions only if the mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb. The measure's limited definition of "fetal anomaly" means it would be illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live.

Such anomalies are generally detected around 20 weeks.

That "fetal anomaly" exception was crucial for the bill clearing the Senate, where Democrats had blocked the legislation for years.

Sen. Brad Hutto, a leading opponent, still believes it should be the woman's choice. But he called the compromise "the best we can get."

Only four of the 16 states to pass the restrictions since 2010 allow a legal abortion if a doctor determines the child will be stillborn or die upon birth. South Carolina legislators borrowed the wording for that exception from Georgia, where state court

blocked enforcement of Georgia's 20-week ban in 2012.

The South Carolina bill, like most of the similar laws, contains no exceptions for rape or incest.

Supporters believe a fetus can feel pain at 20 weeks. Opponents argue such later-term abortions involve wanted pregnancies that go horribly wrong, and politicians should play no role in the difficult decision.

"They are wanted pregnancies, but they find out there is a terrible abnormality," Rep. James Smith, a Democrat, said Tuesday. "Wouldn't it be interesting if we take dollar-for-dollar the money we're going to spend litigating unconstitutional bills and put it into something that makes a difference in South Carolina?"

On average, fewer than 30 abortions yearly are performed at 20 weeks gestation or beyond, according to data since 1990 from the state's public health agency.

The ban would affect only hospitals. None of the three abortion clinics in South Carolina provide abortions beyond 15 weeks.

Title: **Haley vetoes bill to give \$40M in aid to farmers**  
 Author: BY JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press  
 Size: 37.04 column inches  
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# Haley vetoes bill to give \$40M in aid to farmers

BY JEFFREY COLLINS  
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed a bill Monday that would send \$40 million in aid to South Carolina farmers, saying farmers may complain loudly, but don't need a bailout that isn't being offered to all small businesses.

The veto sets up an over-ride showdown with the House and Senate, which each passed the bill by wide margins. It also angers farmers who said the governor promised she had their backs during much less damaging flooding three years ago.

Haley said last week her heart breaks for farmers wiped out when up to 2 feet of rain fell in 12 hours in October over wide parts of South Carolina.

But the governor said farmers have plenty of options to pay for most of their losses, including crop insurance and

a number of other federal programs that can pay for lost yields or to prepare damaged fields for the next planting.

"By any measure the current financial support we give to farmers is extraordinary,

but a vocal industry has asked for more taxpayer dollars to bail them out," Haley wrote in her veto message.



Haley

The farmers have rallied at the Statehouse saying federal aid was not enough after October's catastrophic floods. The deluge came after several months of drought wiped out another round of crops.

The \$40 million proposal would allow farmers in disaster-declared counties to apply for grants of up to \$100,000

each, covering no more than 20 percent of their total loss.

The governor said tens of thousands of other people in South Carolina have already started recovering with aid from public and private sources and urged the Legislature to not overturn her veto.

The original bill passed the House 95-6 and the Senate 33-3 — majorities well over the two-thirds needed to make the bill law over her objections.

Haley's veto threat was especially painful for farmers like John Pendarvis, of Dorchester County. He has had a string of bad luck with the weather, starting back in 2013 when a wet summer left him with little from his corn, cotton and soybeans crops.

Haley came to Pendarvis' farm in August 2013. "You are seeing a farming community in crisis," Haley said back then. "What we are here

to do is show we have the backs of our famers."

The October flood wiped out just about everything Pendarvis was growing. Farmers reported nearly \$400 million in losses in 2015, compared to \$61 million paid in federal crop insurance payments in 2013.

"When she was running for re-election, she promised to help. Now she's backpedaling on me," Pendarvis said.

And Haley's reasoning that farmers shouldn't get help not offered to other small businesses after the flood also didn't sit well with the leader of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

"Our small businesses want our farmers, who contribute to the economic health of our state, to recover. They don't begrudge farmers from receiving funds available to them," chamber president Frank Knapp Jr. said.

Title: **Farm-aidveto a bad idea**

Author:

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## Farm-aid veto a bad idea

Earlier this month, the General Assembly passed a bill to give \$40 million to farmers for relief. The votes weren't close. Near the end of April, a bill passed in the Senate by a vote of 33-3. The bill sailed through the House on May 4 by a vote of 85-2. That makes the chances of overriding a veto good, but (Gov. Nikki) Haley doesn't care.

She said early this week that she would veto the bill because "it would be wrong to bail out the farmers when we can't bail out small businesses, when we can't bail out homeowners."

But farmers aren't your ordinary businessmen. Every year they risk most of what they have against natural forces that they can't control. Sometimes they don't get enough rain. Last year, they got too much. ...

Failing to help sustain the state's agriculture industry could mean not only that many farmers could go out of business but also that many potential young farmers will be discouraged from undertaking the risks of farming in the first place.

— *Morning News*  
Florence

Title: **Farming is unlike any other industry in the state**  
 Author: BY DOUG BUSBEE Guest columnist  
 Size: 29.91 column inches  
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# *Farming is unlike any other industry in the state*

**BY DOUG BUSBEE**

*Guest columnist*

There has been much said about our governor's lack of support for South Carolina farmers during the aftermath of the recent floods. Her lack of support is leaving many people perplexed as to why. Gov. Nikki Haley said, "It is about treating every industry fairly."

Well, not all industries are farms. Our very existence depends upon farmers and their ability to keep pace with the demand for food. There is only a seven-day food supply in the major cities in the U.S., and any disruption of this supply could cause major problems.

We have been blessed in the United States. We have never known fam-

ine in this land and it is because farmers have always been able to out produce demand, even when of a flood or drought hits a particular region of the country.

In the late 1970s, in the midst of the farm strike and a major drought in the Southeast, I asked my dad, "Why do we have to have all of these programs that are supplementing the farmers?"

My dad, who was fifth-generation farmer on the same land, a hardware/building supply business owner and a World War II veteran, answered, "Son, we must have a surplus of food; it is what has made this country great and is what will keep it great."

Over the years I have found those words to be true. While other countries flounder, our food source has remained con-

stant and kept the U.S. in the forefront.

I do not believe our governor understands the financial aspects of farming. Not only are many farmers going to forgo a whole year's gross income, but they will have nothing to invest in next year's crops. Would you believe that crop insurance doesn't cover floods in many instances? Only after the flood did many farmers become aware of that fact. Many who may have debts from the

previous year will be foreclosed on, and generational farms will be sold to corporate Wall Street traded land companies. Those lucky enough to keep their homes will likely become sharecroppers of their own land.

I do not think Gov. Haley understands a deep-rooted South Carolinian's connection to the land. For almost 300 years now,

it is our land that has sustained us. When all else had been stripped away through wars and financial depression, our land kept us alive.

While I applaud the governor's efforts to bring jobs to South Carolina, it is our farmers who have been the backbone and moral compass of this state. Many main streets have already been taken over by the coldness of the corporate world. Our family farms are the last stand. If we turn them over to the corporate world, we will have nothing but the greed of Wall Street to guide us. It is with fear and trembling that I look upon that day.

**Doug Busbee** is a small businessman and farmer who resides in Wagener.



**Busbee**

Title: **Tick-tock goes Legislature's clock**  
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE [ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)  
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## STATE GOVERNMENT

# Tick-tock goes Legislature's clock

With 3 weeks left in session, many major issues remain unresolved

More money for roads, rural schools likely to come as part of state budget

Lawmakers have sent about 50 proposals to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk

BY CASSIE COPE  
[ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)

With three weeks left in its regular session, the S.C. Legislature has many issues unresolved.

Legislators are notorious for waiting until the session's last minute to address major issues, and this year is no different.

For example, a plan to repair the state's roads — the pot holes, failing bridges and congested highways — has not been sent to the governor. The most recent bonding plan, which is expected to pay for \$4 billion of the roughly \$40 billion in road projects needed, is in a House subcommittee, waiting for representatives to return to Columbia this week after an unpaid furlough.

Meanwhile, several House proposals to do more for the state's poor, rural schools — an issue the S.C. Supreme Court says the Legislature must

address — are advancing in the Senate but have not yet become law. The Senate has passed three, sending two back to the House to consider changes senators want to make, and is considering three more.

Both the school and road repair proposals likely will pair with the roughly \$7.5 billion spending plan for the state's fiscal year that starts July 1. The House and Senate have each passed their own budgets and must work out their differences in the remaining weeks.

So what has the General Assembly sent to the governor's desk in the first five months of its six-month session?

About 50 proposals, ranging from requiring stamps on cigarettes to show S.C. taxes have been paid, to a \$40 million

proposal to offer grants to S.C. farmers who lost crops during last year's historic flooding.

Gov. Nikki Haley has until Tuesday to veto the farm aid proposal, which she has said she will do, arguing it is unfair to help one business sector in South Carolina and not all.

Neither farmers nor the S.C. Small Business of Commerce are buying that argument.

"The governor should not use small businesses as an excuse not to help our farmers recover from last year's floods," said Frank Knapp Jr., president of the Small Business Chamber. "Our small businesses want our farmers, who contribute to the economic health of our state, to recover. They don't begrudge farmers from receiving funds

available to them just because other small businesses don't have the opportunity."

Other proposals the Legislature has sent to the governor include:

- Repealing regulations relating to horse and kangaroo meat. Those regulations were unnecessary, according to the state's health agency, because existing regulations already covered them.

- Allowing the state's health agency to offer the cervical cancer vaccine to eligible adolescents.

- Establishing committees to review domestic violence fatalities in each of the state's judicial districts to analyze domestic violence-related deaths

- Requiring coal ash created by power plants to be disposed of in a landfills that meet strict standards.

Title: **Beaufort leaders want more beach money**  
 Author:  
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### **Beaufort leaders want more beach money**

BEAUFORT (AP) — Beaufort area leaders want more state money earmarked for rebuilding eroding beaches — particularly for Hunting Island State Park where erosion chews away as much as 30 feet of beach a year.

*The Beaufort Gazette* reports that the Senate version of the state budget includes \$20 million for beach projects in the coming fiscal

year. That's only half of what the House and Gov. Nikki Haley proposed.

Denise Parsick, the president of Friends of Hunting Island, is enlisting the 900 members of the group to contact state lawmakers to get \$40 million in the budget. The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce also has started an online petition.

There's a project proposed to rebuild the Hunting Island beaches with 600,000 cubic yards of sand. A public hearing on the permit is Tuesday.



Title: **Supporters push for money to restore beaches**  
 Author: BY STEPHEN FASTENAU [sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com)  
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## HUNTING ISLAND

# Supporters push for money to restore beaches

SC senators cut beach renourishment funding from \$40 million to \$20 million

State park department seeking two groins and more than 600,000 cubic yards of sand

Friends of Hunting Island asking people to write senators, representatives

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU

[sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com)

Hunting Island supporters are rallying to ensure millions of dollars to restore the island's beaches remain in the state budget.

Earlier this month, South Carolina senators allotted just \$20 million for the state's beach renourishment projects for the fiscal year that begins July 1. That's half of the \$40 million that Gov. Nikki Haley and the

S.C. House of Representatives proposed spending.

The money would benefit a list of state beaches including Hunting Island, home to one of the state's most popular parks that is grappling with aggressive erosion that takes away about 5

to 30 feet of beach per year.

The funds are needed to help restore public areas on the island's north and south beaches,

shore up the campground area and protect Hunting Island's historic lighthouse, said Friends of Hunting Island president Denise Parsick. The storm and high tides this past October eroded as much of the barrier island's beaches as normally occurs in a year, she said.

"If we don't renourish our beaches, people will go to other

beaches," Parsick said. "It's only a hop, skip and a jump to North Carolina, Florida and Georgia."

Parsick is enlisting the 900 members of Friends of Hunting Island to write legislators asking for the \$40 million. And the Beaufort Regional Chamber of

**SEE BEACHES, 6A**

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## BEACHES

Commerce has started an online petition.

The S.C. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department wants to pump more than 600,000 cubic yards of sand onto Hunting Island's beaches and add two groins to the six installed in 2008. The project would be done at the same time as a similar project on nearby Edisto Island.

A public hearing on the permit request will be held at Beaufort City Hall at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, said coastal

lawmakers will lobby members of a joint committee of House and Senate members who will write the final version of the budget. The committee's work must be completed before July 1 when the state's new fiscal year begins.

The case for beach renourishment can be made objectively by showing how important beaches are to state revenue, Davis said.

"Beach renourishment obviously plays a large part of that," Davis said Friday. "You can make the

case in terms of dollars and cents."

Since 1969, eight major renourishment projects have been conducted to maintain Hunting Island's beaches, totaling about \$15 million.

The park's most recent renourishment project was installing six groins in

2008. More groins were approved at the time, but the money wasn't available, Parks, Recreation and Tourism director Duane Parrish said Friday.

Renourishment was due and being planned for the park before the October

storm accelerated the urgency, Parrish said.

Research shows the groins are working, he said, pointing to his visit to the park in April.

"You can walk out there and tell," Parrish said.

"There is a lot more sand out there where the groins are than where the groins were not."

Parsick would like to see a recurring fee to help pay for future projects so that the beaches aren't so dependent on the state budget. She thinks an extra dollar per car visiting the park would work.

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Hunting Island's 1.08 million visitors this past fiscal year ranked second only to Myrtle Beach State Park, which drew almost 1.5 million, state parks spokeswoman Dawn Daw-

son-House said. The next most visited park was Huntington Beach in Murrells Inlet, which drew half as many visitors as Hunting Island.

"We're not talking about a beach just serving locals," said Robb Wells, tourism director for the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce. "We're talking about a beach that

serves the state. ... That is our battle cry."

*Stephen Fastenau:*  
 843-706-8182,  
 @IPBG\_Stephen



JAY KARR [jkarr@islandpacket.com](mailto:jkarr@islandpacket.com)

Advocates for Hunting Island are working to get money restored to the state budget so beach renourishment work can be done. In this 2015 file photo, evidence of beach erosion can be seen along Cabin Road in Hunting Island State Park.



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JAY KARR [jkarr@islandpacket.com](mailto:jkarr@islandpacket.com)

Hunting Island is grappling with erosion that gouges 5 to 30 feet of beach each year.

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JAY KARR [jkarr@islandpacket.com](mailto:jkarr@islandpacket.com)

Beach erosion along Cabin Road in Hunting Island State Park is shown in photos taken on Nov. 22.

Title: **Joye in Aiken receives high honor**  
 Author: BY STEPHANIE TURNER sturner@aikenstandard.com  
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# Joye in Aiken receives high honor

BY STEPHANIE TURNER

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Joye in Aiken was officially recognized for its outreach program at the South Carolina State House on Wednesday.

In March, it was announced that Joye in Aiken, formerly Juilliard in Aiken, received the South Carolina Arts Commission's 2016 Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Awards for the Arts in the Arts in Education category.

The awards are regarded as the highest honor the state gives in the arts and are given in various categories.

The awards ceremony took place at the State House in the morning, and a concert and gala occurred later that evening.

"We are tremendously grateful to the SC Arts Commission for awarding Joye in Aiken this high honor," said Dr. Sandra Field, Joye in Aiken co-founder and board president. "It is gratifying to have our work in arts education recognized at this level. We are also grateful to all in our community who have supported our outreach program and made it possible for us to teach, inspire and motivate so many deserving children."

Recipients for the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards also were recognized Wednesday.

City Councilman Steve Homoki and his wife Zee nominated Joye for the Verner award.

Last year, Dr. Donald Portnoy, now the conductor of the Aiken Symphony Orchestra, was awarded a Verner Award in the individual category.

Joye in Aiken has been bringing faculty members, students and graduates from The Juilliard School in New York to Aiken since 2009.

The eighth annual Joye in Aiken Performing Arts Festival and Outreach Program ran this year from March 5 to 12. The festival's finale concert can be seen at 8 and 11 a.m. and at 2, 5 and 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday on Atlantic Broadband's Channel 12 until June 1.

The season also included appearances by Allant Trio and the team of John Brancy and Peter Dugan.

For their appearance, Brancy and Dugan presented their A Silent Night: A WWI Centenary Tribute in Song concert. The two are raising funds to create a CD version of the program. For more information, visit [www.bit.ly/1rKiCpQ](http://www.bit.ly/1rKiCpQ).

The ninth annual Joye in Aiken festival is set for March 4 to 10 next year.

For more information on the orga-

nization or the Verner Awards, visit [www.joyeinaiken.com](http://www.joyeinaiken.com) or [www.southcarolinaarts.com](http://www.southcarolinaarts.com).

**Stephanie Turner** graduated from Valdosta State University in 2012. She then signed on with the *Aiken Standard*, where she is now the features reporter. She primarily covers health topics, arts and entertainment, authors and restaurants.

## Award winners

This year's recipients for the South Carolina Arts Commission's 2016 Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Awards for the Arts received their honors on Wednesday.

This year's winners are as follows:

- **Arts in Education:** Joye in Aiken
- **Special recognition:** Hootie and the Blowfish and Nikky Finney
- **Artist:** Mary Edna Fraser
- **Individual:** Betty Plumb
- **Foundation:** The Phifer Foundation/The Johnson Collection
- **Government:** The City of Greenville
- **Organization:** The Columbia Museum of Art



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SUBMITTED PHOTO BY MOLLY HARRELL/SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION

Joye in Aiken was among this year's recipients for the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Awards for the Arts. Janice Jennings, executive director, pictured in front, second from left, and Dr. Sandra Field, board president and co-founder, pictured in back, second from left, helped to represent Joye in Aiken at a ceremony on Wednesday. The other recipients pictured are South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Mayor Knox White and Ed Zeigler with the City of Greenville, artist Mary Edna Fraser, Betty J. Plumb, Karen Brosius and Claude Walker with the Columbia Museum of Art, poet Nikky Finney and Susu and George Johnson with the Phifer-Johnson Foundation/The Johnson Collection. Accepting the Folk Heritage Awards were Dotsy Clayton, who accepted for the late Harold Clayton, and Bill Harris.

Title: **New motion filed by S.C. in MOX suit**  
 Author: BY THOMAS GARDINER [tgardiner@aikenstandard.com](mailto:tgardiner@aikenstandard.com)  
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# New motion filed by S.C. in MOX suit

BY THOMAS GARDINER

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South Carolina filed another motion against the U.S. Department of Energy, or DOE, in the ongoing Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, or MOX, battle.

According to the latest filing, the main objective of this lawsuit is to prevent South Carolina from becoming a "dumping ground" for the nation's plutonium. The legal battle began when the DOE failed to meet the Jan. 1, 2016, deadline for removal of the required minimum of 1 metric ton of plutonium out of the state after having failed to meet the original MOX



Haley

each day, until April 10 when

the fine total capped out at \$100 million. The penalties are written in U.S. Code Title 50, Sec. 2566 and call for fines and penalties to be levied against the federal government's DOE each year until it is in compliance with the law. The lawsuit was filed by the state in February and the DOE filed its motion to dismiss April 25.

The comprehensive series of arguments in the state's opposition to dismissal said, "Adopting the Federal Defendants' newfound and arbitrary interpretation of the statute would allow them to decide to keep plutonium in the State indefinitely, completely turning the statute on its head."

Gov. Nikki Haley has consistently stood by her remarks in a letter to the DOE that her state will not tolerate being used as a "nuclear dumping ground."

The state argues in the lawsuit that the Congressional statute uses the word "shall" which is not to be understood

as optional. The lawsuit also said that the statute did not contain a penalty or court ordered remedy in itself, but that the lack of action and timeliness on behalf of the DOE created the need for the lawsuit seeking to enforce a remedy.

The lawsuit resists the DOE claims in its motion to dismiss the case that called South Carolina's interpretation of the law "absurd" and "untenable." The DOE motion to dismiss alleged that Congress could never have intended to "create such an irrational scheme," but the state's latest filing resists, claiming the DOE can't consider the statute's language as "untenable" because the DOE drafted and proposed the language within the statute.

Also included in the lawsuit is a list of relief measures that it claims are due to the state of South Carolina. Among them is a requested injunction that would prohibit the federal government from bringing any additional defense plutonium into

the state until the DOE and federal defendants are in full compliance with the statute. That could mean shipments like the inbound Japanese plutonium could be forced into alternate arrangements while the DOE takes the needed steps toward legal compliance.

The oppositional filing asks the court to deny the motion to dismiss and said, "The underlying principle of checks-and-balances in the Constitution and concept of federalism prohibit the executive branch from usurping the Legislative Branch by rewriting statutes and failing to comply with and execute the law."

The court has yet to announce a decision about either the state's request for summary judgment or the DOE's motion for dismissal.

**Thomas Gardiner** is the SRS beat reporter for the *Aiken Standard*. Follow him on Twitter @TGardiner\_AS.



Title: **Autoneum begins construction on expansion of plant in Aiken**  
 Author: BY DAN BROWN dbrown@0tikenstandard.com  
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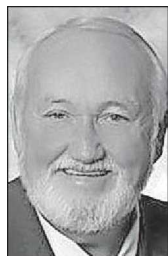
# Autoneum begins construction on expansion of plant in Aiken

BY DAN BROWN

dbrown@aikenstandard.com

Autoneum North America began construction on a Powderhouse Road plant expansion that could bring 41 new jobs and invest approximately \$35.5 million into Aiken County's economy.

Motorists passing by the automotive component plant located at 1103 Powderhouse Road during the past two weeks have noticed extensive land clearing operations underway.



Young

What used to be a vacant 5-acre lot with a tall stand of Southern pines, has been reduced to tree stumps and mulch as land is cleared in preparation for the expansion project. Autoneum is expanding its

existing Aiken County facility to 315,000-square-feet to meet customer demands, according to a news release.

Autoneum North America, a producer and developer of automotive components and systems for noise and heat protection, is looking to expand its Aiken operations. The company is headquartered in Winterthur, Switzerland, and operates 50 produc-

tion sites in more than 20 countries, including Aiken.

Will Williams, Aiken Economic Development Partnership CEO, said in March the expansion of Autoneum was good for Aiken County. Before deciding on Aiken, Autoneum had considered two other North American facilities during the first quarter of 2016, before deciding on Aiken in March of this year.

"This is all part of our continuing efforts to show Aiken County to be a place where businesses can grow and expand," Williams said in March.

Aiken County Council Chairman Ronnie Young said Aiken County is grateful Autoneum chose Aiken.

"New investments and jobs are things we work hard for in Aiken County and do not take for granted," Young said.

"We know Autoneum had other locations they could have chosen, but we are grateful they chose to expand here. We also appreciate the City of Aiken and their cooperation in making this project a reality."

Gov. Nikki Haley called the company's decision to expand in the county a "huge win" for the entire state.

"This \$35.5 million invest-

ment, and the 40 new jobs it will create, is a testament to our state's world-class workforce and the business-friendly environment we have worked so hard to create here," Haley said.

Economic Development Partnership Board Chairman Gary Stooksbury said existing industry expansion is always appreciated.

"Autoneum has been a good company for Aiken County and we appreciate them choosing to expand here," he said in a news release.

"The Economic Development Partnership appreciates the opportunity to work with companies like Autoneum and Aiken County to make these things happen."

Construction on the plant expansion is expected to be completed by mid-to-late 2017, according to corporate reports.

**Dan Brown** is the city government reporter for the *Aiken Standard*.

... We are grateful they chose to expand here. We also appreciate the City of Aiken and their cooperation in making this project a reality.

**Aiken County Council Chairman Ronnie Young**



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STAFF PHOTO BY DAN BROWN

**Autoneum's expansion is expected to inject \$35.5 million and 41 jobs into the Aiken County economy. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-to-late 2017.**

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STAFF PHOTO BY DAN BROWN

**Construction crews clear about 5 acres of land on Autoneum's Powderhouse Road in preparation of a plant expansion that could bring 41 jobs to Aiken County.**