



# COLUMBIA CHAMBER

PARTNERS FOR A GREATER COLUMBIA

March 9, 2015

Dear Governor Haley,

Thank you for your support at the Fort Jackson Community Listening Session last Thursday. The community was well represented in both the morning and afternoon sessions. The Executive Briefing included nearly 50 business leaders from our community who were later joined by over 1,500 members of the public at Shandon Baptist Church. Together we presented an analytical and emotional case to the United States Army Assessment Team showing our support for Fort Jackson and the dire circumstances we face with budget cuts.

General Cloutier, and the Army Assessment Team, heard our message loud and clear. At the conclusion of the event, which lasted past 7 PM, Cloutier said, "I fully see the relationship between the community and the Fort. Columbia loves its soldiers and the soldiers at the Fort love Columbia." General Bradley Becker was proud of our efforts and said the "expression of support" was what he feels daily as a part of the military community in Columbia.

Regardless of the outcome, Columbia has done its part. Community and business leaders united with mothers, sons and widows to provide messages of pride, support and necessity. As we move forward, we remain focused on the importance of Fort Jackson in our community and our desire to become the center of excellence in Basic Combat Training for the United States Army.

On behalf of the Columbia Chamber, we thank you for your critical involvement.

Sincerely,

Carl Blackstone  
President & CEO  
Columbia Chamber

Boyd Jones  
Chairman  
Columbia Chamber

George Goldsmith  
Military Affairs Chairman  
Columbia Chamber