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Subject: Creating pathways of opportunity in South Carolina

October 18, 2013

Ithaca Gun Company Selects Horry County for Southeast Expansion

**\$6.7 million investment is expected
to create 120 new jobs**

I have often said that when you get enough smart people together, you make the right things happen; and this week, Commerce entered into two very distinct partnerships that prove the power of working together.

After months of development, the state of South Carolina and Israel have signed an agreement to establish a bilateral research and development initiative; the collaboration is the first of its kind in the Southeast. The goal is to have high quality Israeli technology companies form U.S. affiliates in South Carolina, which would help to nurture high-tech startups and applied research in areas like life sciences, technology and innovation.

Also this week, Commerce partnered with four Midlands academic intuitions to announce Coursepower, an unprecedented collaboration that aims to develop South Carolina's digital ecosystem. In support of this effort, I wrote an Op-Ed piece to discuss the importance of this new academic track that puts South Carolina in line to be a top producer and consumer of digital talent.

The advancement of innovation, research and development are important to South Carolina's economic future. And while the international agreement with Israel and the regional agreement with Coursepower are markedly different, they both share the same goal – to

Ithaca Gun Company, an Ohio-based firearms manufacturer, is expanding its Southeast manufacturing operations to the Myrtle Beach area. The \$6.7 million investment will create 120 new, high-skilled jobs, to include machine operators, gunsmiths, engineers and assemblers.

“South Carolina is known for making things and making them well,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. “Ithaca Gun Company’s decision to locate here underscores that, and we are appreciative that they will support more than 100 higher-wage jobs in the region.”

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WasteZero Expanding Facility in Williamsburg County

**\$3.1 million investment expected
to create 27 new jobs**

move the state forward and create pathways of opportunity in our state.

- Secretary Bobby Hitt

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WasteZero, the leading provider of municipal solid waste reduction programs in the U.S., is expanding its

existing operations in Williamsburg County. The \$3.1 million investment is expected to generate 27 new jobs.

"This announcement is another win for one of our state's rural areas," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "We celebrate WasteZero's decision to invest \$3.1 million and create 27 new jobs in Hemingway. It is always great to see one of our existing businesses grow and succeed in our state."

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South Carolina and Israel Sign Bilateral R&D Deal

The State of South Carolina and Israel signed an agreement to establish a bilateral research and development initiative designed to enhance collaboration. The agreement, which creates a funding mechanism for joint industrial research and development projects between Israeli and South Carolina companies and universities, will be carried out by SCRA and MATIMOP, the Israeli Industry Center for R&D, on behalf of the Office of the Chief Scientist of Israel's Ministry of Economy.

"South Carolina is the first state in the Southeast region to forge this kind of partnership with Israel," said Secretary Hitt. "As our state continues to foster innovation, collaborative relationships such as this one will keep us on the cutting edge."

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