

November 10, 2015

The Honorable Nikki Haley

Office of the Governor

1205 Pendleton Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley;

First, I would like to commend you on a job well done, most recently with the flooding disaster in South Carolina. You have done an excellent job for our great state. I sincerely hope that one day you will look towards running for President.

I am writing to you for a two fold reason, one to see if you can help in two areas. The first, I think is fairly simple. I had to apply for FEMA assistance and they required that I get a letter from my insurance company that no claims were paid out. I have no flood insurance because like most people I didn't think I needed it. I am 55 feet above sea level and live on a hill. State Farm required that I file a claim, even though no flood coverage. Now, they tell me that even though nothing was paid out, this counts as a claim. FEMA should not be requiring this as I run the real risk with state Farm that they will send me a letter of non renewal. I spoke with Lauren Gainey in the SCDOI who told me that it should not count against me. I hope that your office can speak to someone at FEMA or someone from the DOI who can issue a directive that this requirement should not be construed as a claim on just a homeowner's policy. I can foresee a real issue in July when my policy renews. As for my FEMA claim, I received \$251. On their estimate of \$20000.00, which didn't include my car which got flooded, I and my pregnant daughter are living in a home with mold and a driveway which I don't know how is still holding up, considering the water punched a hole between the two culverts. The water is standing in a pond because the culverts have floated up on the other side. Also, I lived with raw sewage in my house for over a week because the septic system floated up, breaking the pipe and FEMA gives me \$251. To fix all this. Supposedly I don't qualify for an SBA loan due to my income not being high enough but too high to receive legal assistance. This is what brings me to the next problem.

The second issue is a little more major. I know the storm created extraordinary situations but this has been ongoing for five years. I have lived at my present location for approximately 16 years. The first 11 years were wonderful and then I started noticing a water problem on the rear of my property as well as silt filling in the pond in the front. I called the county who told me it was a beaver problem. Well, it is not a beaver problem, but overdevelopment from 4 new neighborhoods developed at the front of this

area. They clear cut over 150 acres with old growth trees and filled in ricefields and said the retention ponds would alleviate water issues on the creek (Rumph's Hill Creek) which runs from one end of the county all the way to the Ashley River. I live near the headwaters, almost 1400 feet from the creek. That water moved that far and crested the hill where I live. The pond is fed by a creek coming from the Four Hole Swamp area. I am on a very high hill, even have a traditional septic system as DHEC told me I had one of the best well drained properties in this area. The septic system floated and broke the pipe during this storm. I have continuously spoke with Dorchester County about cleaning the creek, it has not been done since HUGO, 26 years ago. They have ended up buying one house, to the tune of almost \$300,000., they also bought a piece of equipment that they told me would be used to clean the creek, another \$300,000 and it has yet to be used in the creek. I have letters dating back 3 years ago that they would be cleaning out the creek, still no action. I have contacted DHEC, who explained to me that Dorchester County has special privileges in approving development, they don't have to go through any agencies, they are allowed to approve their own developments. I have contacted the Corp of Engineers, no help there. I would not have been flooded and evacuated, as well as my 80 year old neighbors were, if the county had done their job. We have had 5 County engineers in 5 years, definitely not a good track record. They are filling in ricefields and flooding others out to get their almighty tax dollars from the new crowded developments. History is being lost. I live on an old plantation site that had a roadbed that the slaves traveled to get to Charleston. It is in one of the local history books, but that roadbed is now pretty much underwater. I had some flooding before this latest disaster but never did I believe that water would come over the hill. I have spoken to County Council many times as well as the County Administrator and have just been ignored. Where can I get their special privileges taken away so that there is some oversight? They don't care about this area, they are the reason I and my neighbor was flooded out and if the creek had been cleaned out, there would have not been several other families in this area flooded out also. They are being irresponsible to citizens that have lived here before and catering to all the newcomers. But some of those newcomers are experiencing issues also, such as underground springs. I have personally seen this in two houses in the new neighborhoods. I guess the current County Council and administrator figure they will be gone when even larger issues come up.

I need your help and advice on this, it needs to stop and be corrected and I am not sure where else to go. The County has taken my property for their own purposes and is ruining my way of life. I have over three acres which is continuously flooding. I need help, not just for this but also the FEMA issue. Thank you for any help in this matter.

Arlene Wheeler (McClain)

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377 Summereset Lane
Summerville SC
29483

843-819-6320

CC: Tim Scott, Lindsey Graham