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Subject: Session Shortening, Nuclear Industry, and Refugees -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- January 25 to February 1, 2016

Session Shortening, Nuclear Industry, and Refugees -- Update from January 25 to February 1, 2016

The legislature returned to session three days a week this past January 12. I hope that you find this update helpful and informative. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the South Carolina State Senate.

State Government News

Restructuring -- Shortening the Legislative Session : Last week, legislation (S.267) that I am sponsoring to shorten the legislative session gained approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee and now is on the full Senate's calendar. Currently, the General Assembly meets three days per week from the second Tuesday in January to the first Thursday in June. The legislation as drafted would require the legislative session to end one month earlier on the first Thursday in May. The bill may be debated on the Senate floor this week.

Restructuring -- State Superintendent of Education : Legislation is pending in the Senate that will allow the Governor to appoint the State Superintendent of Education (S.1017) as a cabinet appointee rather than be popularly elected. All six restructuring studies of state government since 1920 have recommended that the Superintendent of Education be appointed by the Governor to increase accountability, efficiency, and coordination in public education in South Carolina. I am co-sponsoring this legislation.

Nuclear Industry in South Carolina : Last Thursday, leaders from South Carolina's public utilities and SRS senior executives jointly presented information as to the nuclear industry in South Carolina. South Carolina's leadership in nuclear energy and the economic impact of SRS were covered. In addition, Savannah River National Lab detailed how it is leading innovation for national security and clean

energy. To see materials from SCANA, go [here](#); from Duke Energy, go [here](#); from Westinghouse, go [here](#); from SRNS and SRNL, go [here](#); and from SRR, go [here](#).

Refugee Legislation Advances : Last Wednesday, Congressmen Jeff Duncan and Mick Mulvaney testified before the State Senate General Committee on the refugee resettlement program. The General Committee advanced legislation to involve the State Law Enforcement Division in verifying that any refugees relocating into South Carolina are not a threat to the public. To see where the head of the FBI testified that our nation's ability to screen the refugees is not sufficient enough to ensure that a few of them are not potential terrorists, go [here](#).

Public Hearing This Thursday -- Proposed Pipeline Legislation : The Senate subcommittee assigned the pending pipeline legislation will have a hearing in Columbia this Thursday, February 4 at 9:00 am in the Gressette Building of the State House complex. Senator Shane Massey and I are on the subcommittee. The pending bill seeks to protect the rights of private landowners where a private company seeks to exercise eminent domain. This is an issue for several residents of Aiken, Edgefield, and other counties whose property may be impacted by the proposed Palmetto Pipeline.

Department of Commerce Economic Outlook: To see the latest information from the Department of Commerce on the state's economy, go [here](#).

Local News

Rep. Don Wells Announcement: Rep. Don Wells who has served Aiken County and House District 81 since December of 2012 announced that he will not seek reelection. Rep. Wells has served on the House Education and Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committees. Before serving in the legislature, he served on Aiken City Council from 2005 through 2012. We thank him for his service during the past four years. He will serve through the end of the year as State Representative for House District 81.

North Augusta -- Satellite County Treasurer and Auditor Office : Yesterday, the Aiken County Auditor and Treasurer officially opened a satellite office at the North Augusta Municipal Building where Aiken County citizens will be able to register new vehicles, request high mileage adjustments, pay both real and personal property taxes, and receive their renewed registrations and license plate stickers. Days and hours of operation from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. To learn more, call [642-2092](tel:642-2092).

Silver Bluff Road -- Aiken: SCDOT is completing the property acquisition phase for this project. The project is scheduled to let (advertise for Bids) this Spring. Construction is to begin by late Spring with an anticipated duration of 18 months depending on the required utility relocations and the schedule of the selected contractor. That means a projected completion date of the Fall of 2017.

Tall Pines STEM Academy -- Opening in August : In partnership with Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute, Tall Pines STEM Academy will open at Camp

Long in Aiken County in August 2016 as part of the South Carolina Public Charter School District. The first academic year will accommodate 5th and 6th grades with plans to add 7th and 8th grades over the next 2 years. Open enrollment is now. To learn more about the academics to be offered and the school, go [here](#).

Small Business Help -- Greater Aiken SCORE Chapter: The volunteers of our local Greater Aiken Chapter of SCORE continue to be recognized for their work supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs receiving (1) the Platinum Award from the SCORE National headquarters which is the highest award given to local chapters and (2) being named Chapter of the Year for South Carolina. The local SCORE Chapter provides mentoring and advisory board services, free of charge, to local small businesses and entrepreneurs. They are a Non-Profit chartered as the volunteer arm of the Small Business Administration and are closely partnered with the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce in our community. For additional information about SCORE, visit the Aiken SCORE web site [here](#).

New Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer : Major Dwight Bradham is the new Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer. He can be reached at [642-1545](tel:642-1545) by phone and at dbradham@aikencountysc.gov by email. If you have any veteran-related issue, please call the office for assistance. You can follow that office on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/AikenVA and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/VA_Aiken.

Joint Meeting -- Legislative Delegation and County Council : The Aiken County Legislative Delegation and Aiken County Council will jointly meet next Monday, February 8 at 6:00 pm at the Aiken County Government Center. To learn more, call 642-1694.

Suicide Prevention : Mental Health America of Aiken County recently developed an informative website on the issue of suicide prevention in our community. To learn more, go [here](#).

SRS Heritage Foundation : To see the latest newsletter for the SRS Heritage Foundation, go [here](#). Many residents in Senate District 24 are current or former employees of companies located at SRS.

Honor Flight South Carolina : Honor Flight takes World War II and Korean War veterans to Washington, DC so that they can see and experience the war memorials. The veterans do not pay for the one day trip. They are looking for WWII and Korean War veterans to go on the next flight which is this Spring. This may be the last trip as seen in this recent new [story](#). To learn more and to see the application, go [here](#).

Volunteer in Local Schools: If you would like to help with educating our children, consider volunteering in our local schools. To learn more, go [here](#). Thank you to the Aiken Downtown Rotary Club for putting together this list of opportunities.

Aiken County Legislative Delegation Office : The local legislative delegation office is staffed by the delegation secretary Jeannie Cadden in the Aiken County Government Building on University Parkway. Ms. Cadden works on both Aiken

County and Edgefield County legislative and constituent matters. One of the services provided by our local delegation office is the processing of paperwork associated with becoming a notary public. If you need help with this or other matters, let me know by responding to this email or call Jeannie in the delegation office at [642-1694](tel:642-1694).

Other News of Interest

Faith Magazine article : A *Faith* Magazine has an article about my public service and faith which can be seen [here](#).

SRS Retiree Association – Retiree Resource Center Help : The SRS Retiree Association has established a SRS Retiree Resource Center in Aiken. To learn more about what services this office can provide, go [here](#).

Nonprofits and Raffles : Since April 4, nonprofits may legally conduct raffles in South Carolina to raise funds for their charitable purposes. For the new law, the Secretary of State created a frequently asked questions list which can be seen [here](#). If you have more questions, please call the Charities Division of the Secretary of State at [\(803\) 734-1790](tel:803-734-1790).

Cardiac Arrest : For a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation, go to www.heartrescuenow.com.

Special Needs Children – Help for Parents and Caregivers : The South Carolina Bar developed a handbook for parents of special needs children. An online version of the handbook is available [here](#).

Teens and Texting : Texting while driving amongst younger drivers remains a problem. The State of South Carolina's anti-texting law went into effect on December 7, 2014. There is an anti-texting app which parents can use to keep their teen from texting while driving. To learn more, go [here](#).

Constituent Information

Legislative Email Updates : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): bill@billhixon.com
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): bill@taylorscheuse.com
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): dwells29801@gmail.com

Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information : Congressman Wilson represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [642-6416](tel:642-6416).

Speaking with Groups Around the District : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let

me know.

State Government Resources : Several online resources are available to you for learning more about our State Government. These resources include the following websites which can be accessed as follows: General Assembly's website -- go [here](#); Executive Budget Office -- go [here](#); State Library -- go [here](#); Legislative Audit Council -- go [here](#); Governor's Office -- go [here](#); and State Fiscal Transparency information, go [here](#).

Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

Facebook : I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. Please "like" the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

Tom Young's Website : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go [here](#).

Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan : South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go [here](#).

Donate Life : You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or [here](#).

Child Passenger Safety : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go [here](#). The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Request a Flag : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com. Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

State House Tours : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling [\(803\) 734-2430](tel:803-734-2430) or by going [here](#). If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you. The State House is open on Saturdays for guided and unguided tours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

South Carolina Tourism : To learn more about tourist attractions and tourism opportunities in South Carolina, go [here](#).

Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization : To learn

more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, go [here](#).

SC BBQ Trail : According to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, our state is the birthplace of barbecue in the United States and is the only state that offers all four official barbecue sauces. To see the official map with more than 200 restaurant listings, go [here](#). Another helpful site can be seen [here](#).

Aiken County Tourism : To learn more about tourism options in Aiken County, go [here](#).

Email Updates : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

Road Issues : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or Aiken County at [642-1532](tel:642-1532) to report the problem. You may also report the repair request online [here](#). If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young
649-0000 (o)
215-3631 (cell)

Paid for by Tom Young for Senate
