

May 13, 2016

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing to you today because of a concern I have for my own life as well as others. You see I travel the highways of SC every day for work. I live in Charleston but travel the state from Greenville to Columbia to Aiken etc. Most of the time I am on I-95 and I-26. My job as an Industrial Automation Engineer is to call on our Manufacturing Plants and find ways to keep them running both efficiently and for the lowest possible costs. That way they can continue to make their products in the State of SC and keep those tax dollars at work in our home state. I love what I do. The best part is that the company I work for manufactures the vast majority of our products not only in the US, but also many in SC. We have several Plants located in SC and even a HQ in Greenville.

This week another large Tractor-Trailer almost ran me off the road and I decided that I would feel better if I at least tried to reach out to you in an attempt to improve our system. I know that you are aware of this problem and I have heard you address this issue in the past. I am not writing this letter to complain, rather to propose a solution that I have seen work in other states. This job has taken me all over the country. I began my career 15 years ago in Greenville, SC and then on to DE, PA, NJ, MD, CA, HI, NV, NM, UT and now I am back in SC to slow down and raise my family.

The two lane highway system has been an issue all over and will continue to be as our population grows. I understand the cost associated with adding an additional lane. Basically, all bridges and overpasses need to be rebuilt or corrected and that takes time and money.

So here is my proposal. When I spent time in NV I had to drive from Southern CA up to the desert near Las Vegas every month. The Truck issue was a problem there as well but they were able to solve the problem. They built what is called a "Truck Lane". It is a 3rd lane to the right side of the road separated by a solid white line. Truck traffic is required to drive in this lane (and they get it all to themselves) as they are supposed to keep to the right everywhere. The Truck Lane would end and the trucks would merge over into the middle lane as they approached a bridge or overpass. Then the lane would begin again after passing under the overpass or going over the bridge. That way, no work needs to be done to this infrastructure and the Project requires much less time and cost. The result of this is that the Trucks never move into the far left lane (passing lane) and therefore they can't "Cut off" the cars passing by. I truly believe this is a good fix and should be considered. There are far too many accidents involving trucks and driving a small sedan, I would lose any battle with one.

Lastly, I want to thank you and those that served to fix Highway 17 (Savannah Highway). That road is a pleasure these days and I love to travel it. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,



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