



October 26, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

Where is all the outrage? Hardly anything in the local newspaper since the announcement! Century Aluminum, a major employer and corporate supporter of our local economy has announced they may close their plant on December 31, 2015 because they have been unsuccessful at negotiating a competitive electricity rate with Santee Cooper, their power supplier. However, they have secured a power rate from another source they say they need to stay competitive in the aluminum smelter business, but Santee Cooper appears to be standing in the way of their actually being able to get the power to their plant. Take notice! We are talking about 600 jobs (600 families) that have been employed at this facility for over 35 years. In a University of South Carolina study: \$977 million impact on our state economy; 2,300 jobs created; \$135 million in labor income. Think about the impact the operation of this business has on our economy, local and state tax revenue, the growth of Santee Cooper and that "intangible" benefit of our economic leaders being able to say "Century Aluminum thinks this is a good area to have an industrial plant." Another thing: We do not have to "give" them incentives to come here. They are already here.

Century Aluminum is in a highly competitive, capital intensive business that is having to contend with Chinese government price support for their own aluminum manufacturers. Are we going to stand by and let another of our U.S. manufacturers go out of business or are we going to fight for our industry and its good paying jobs and other community benefits?

December 31, 2015 will be here before you know it. Century is not asking for a subsidy. They are asking for cooperation from Santee Cooper to keep their plant open. They have offered to pay Santee Cooper competitive rates for that cooperation. If Santee Cooper cannot be competitive, what right do they, a "quasi-government" organization, have to stand in the way of a private company trying to stay alive in the competitive world we live in? Hopefully, Santee Cooper will step-up or get out of the way.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Swicord
President & CEO

Allen and Webb
3127 Rivers Avenue, Charleston SC 29405

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