

From: GEORGE SWINDELL <gtswindell@gmail.com>
To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 3/22/2017 12:51:12 PM
Subject: Broher, I can't spare a dime

Lt. Governor Bryant

I would like to comment on your article that appeared in the March 21, 2017 Viewpoints section of the Greenwood Index Journal. I want to take exception to your stance on taxes: "I oppose raising your taxes-period". It is this "take or leave it" attitude, which has prevailed in the Republican leadership, that has yielded political grid lock, unsound economic decisions and irresponsible cost shifting to the local level.

Case in point - Greenwood County voters recently approved a county 1% sales tax to fund twenty seven projects totaling \$88 million. One of the projects was for road widening to accommodate increased truck traffic from two new manufacturing facilities along an industrial corridor (that already includes three manufacturing facilities) at a cost of \$12 million. These are all companies with a global customer base. Common sense, not to mention basic cost accounting, would indicate that highway expansion should be funded by gasoline taxes, becoming a cost of manufacturing and passed on to their customers, not absorbed 100% by the taxpayers of Greenwood County. In addition all these companies were granted property tax relief.

It is easy to quote numbers, percentages, politics, etc. but your real opposition to "opposing taxes - period" is ideological, and displays a very narrow minded "my way or the highway" mentality. Elected officials have the responsibility to govern.

I voted for the tax increase, in spite of opposing the road expansion project (and several other projects) because it was the right thing to do for Greenwood County. I have considered myself a political independent until recently but with the election of Governor Halley and now President Trump that has changed.

It is interesting to note that Greenwood County, historically Democratic, is currently debt free. It is my understanding Greenwood is the only county in the State that can make that claim.

George Swindell
801 Saddle Hill Road
Greenwood, SC 29646

"You can always count on Americans to do the right thing—after they've tried everything else," Winston Churchill