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NIKKI R. HALEY

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Gov. Nikki Haley, South Carolina Celebrate 40,000 New Jobs Since January 2011

Over 9.6 Billion Invested In 301 Projects Statewide – 126 New Facilities And 175 Expansions

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Gov. Nikki Haley announced today that under her administration, South Carolina has been able to announce the addition of over 40,000 new jobs since January 2011. This benchmark is reached on the same day that the South Carolina Department of Commerce confirmed the expansion of two South Carolina companies, Belk, Inc. and Flame Spray, which will combine to provide an additional 41.1 million in new investment and 215 jobs. In total, since January 2011, South Carolina has announced 301 projects statewide – 126 new facilities and 175 expansions.

"40,000 new jobs is a big deal for South Carolina and the hardworking people of this state and there is nothing we won't do to keep adding to this number," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "The unemployment rate dropping to a five year low didn't happen randomly – it's the direct result of a comprehensive economic development effort encompassing rural areas, instate expansions, and attracting new businesses from overseas. There is nothing more important than getting South Carolinians back to work and it will remain our top priority going forward."

This news comes just three weeks after South Carolina's unemployment rate was reported to have reached a 5-year low at 7.5 percent in October 2013. In January 2011, 1.931 million people were employed in South Carolina – today there are 1.994 million people employed. In addition, South Carolina's unemployment rate is 0.5% lower than North Carolina's at 8.0% and 0.6% lower than Georgia's at 8.1%.

"South Carolina continues to fight above its weight in recruitment and forge ahead of our neighboring states," said South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "Since January 2011, we have grown manufacturing jobs in South Carolina at nearly double the rate of North Carolina and Georgia. Working with our partners in the public and private sectors, we'll strive to continue this upward trend."

"Governor Haley has made job creation her No. 1 priority since taking office and she has delivered, particularly in the manufacturing sector," said President and CEO of the South Carolina Chamber of

Commerce, Otis Rawl. "Governor Haley has kept a laser focus on job creation by ensuring every county has new industry and growth."

"Since taking office, Governor Haley has worked tirelessly to recruit private sector manufacturing jobs to South Carolina. She has insisted on a regulatory climate that encourages job creation for our citizens," said Lewis Gossett, President and CEO of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance. "Equally important, she and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt have sent a clear message that this State is open for business, that we will work hard to earn your confidence in us, and that we will stand behind you and your employees as they make world class products in South Carolina. The numbers you see today are a testament to her commitment and hard work."

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