

From: Robert Ford

Sent: 8/19/2015 6:25:21 PM

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Cc:

Subject: Fwd: Ravenel Bridge, SC State University, Voters Rights, Education & Employment

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The Arthur Ravenel Bridge

On two different occasions, Senator Arthur Ravenel, who also served in Congress and on the Charleston County School Board pointed out to the local, state and the national public that Senator Robert Ford, obtained the pivotal vote for the Arthur Ravenel/Cooper River Bridge project. The Ravenel Bridge was a \$700 million dollar project.

What was on the table? Approximately \$400 million accompanied by a \$325 million loan from the SC Infrastructure Bank, without that money there was no money for the bridge. Senator Maggie Glover was a high ranking official in the State NAACP and Senator Ravenel had previously made negative comments about the NAACP that she did not appreciate.

However, Senator Glover was also the only senator of the remaining 23 that we could potentially convince to change her vote. The other twenty-two senators were adamantly opposed to Charleston getting that kind of money from the SC Infrastructure Bank. We would not have that spectacular bridge today if she had not changed her vote. Let me restate for the record, without Senator Ford convinces her to change vote, there would be no bridge.

At least, Senator Arthur Ravenel acknowledges that fact and makes every attempt to inform the public to recognize the roles of others in this mammoth project. Senators Robert Ford, Darrell Jackson and the Honorable Glenn McConnell are the main people responsible for the provision to fund private religious institutions with State Lottery funds. Unlike some, specifically the Board of Directors of the five private religious institutions of higher learning in this state, who continue to benefit from

the efforts of these three elected officials who were serious about their roles.

SC State University

- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ I am 100% committed to do everything within my power to help save SCSU.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ I am equally committed to advocate and legislatively support the institution's equal funding and deferred maintenance issues.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ I will work with SCSU to develop an Alumni Engagement Program.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ Demand from the SC General Assembly some form of reparations for the decades of neglect of SCSU.

Renewal of the Voters Rights Acts

- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ The Voters Rights Act has produced 7 million Black voters and 12,000 Black Elected Officials.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ All of this is good, the only problem, the 12,000 Black Elected Officials have forgotten the number of people who died to win the rights for voter's in the first place.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ The majority of our Black Elected Officials has failed to produce serious legislation and policy that affects the lives of mainstream Black people.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ Any given profession requires some degree of education and training. The days of trivial and non-substantive legislation that does not deal with education, jobs and decent wages must come to an end.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ Replace those 12,000 fruitless officials and demand training for the new ones.

Employment/Education

- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ Fight and work vigorously to institute the criteria for a livable income for everyone in South Carolina.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ To make every public high school establish a comprehensive secondary education program similar to Wando High School.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ Decent wages and economic stability with viable employment opportunities subsequently reduce crime and provide incentives for employment advancement.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~ Positive work experiences with comparable pay motivate people to seek educational advancement which in turn leads to increased responsibilities and job promotions.