



the Chamber
Greater Summerville / Dorchester County
Chamber Of Commerce

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor, State of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton St
Columbia, SC 29201

The Honorable Jay Lucas
Speaker of the House,
State of South Carolina
506 Blatt Bldg
Columbia, SC 29201

The Honorable Hugh Leatherman
Senator, State of South Carolina
111 Gressette Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley, Speaker Lucas, and Senator Leatherman:

Again this year the Greater Summerville/Dorchester Chamber of Commerce finds itself in the position of having to write another letter requesting that our elected officials address our State's crumbling infrastructure. The Greater Summerville/Dorchester Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 businesses and is dedicated to building the best environment and improving the economic vitality of our community. To that end, we have a responsibility to address critical needs that inhibit the quality of life, degrade our economy, and prevent a favorable business climate.

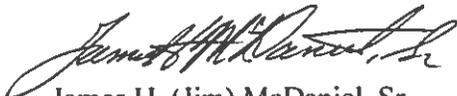
We can't wait another year for increased funding to address this issue. Action is needed now to dedicate sustainable and recurring resources to maintain and improve our infrastructure. The business community is counting on our elected leaders to unite in agreement on a comprehensive funding plan, and not the Band-Aid plan which kicks the funding question down the road for another year. The current Senate bill would only provide \$8.6 million per County if the funding was equally distributed. In Dorchester County that's not even enough money to build the much-needed two mile road to Ashley Ridge High School which the children of our community drive daily to and from school.

There are few other issues as significant to our economy and quality of life, or that will make as positive an impact on our state. A few important facts to note:

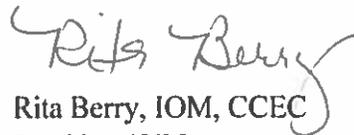
- Businesses already reroute trucks just to conduct daily business because almost half of our 830 structurally deficient bridges are load restricted.
- Nearly one-third of primary and interstate highways are in poor or mediocre condition.
- A national report (TRIP) ranks South Carolina's rural roads the second deadliest in the nation.

We cannot continue to let our infrastructure deteriorate and expect an improvement in our economy. Our elected leaders must stand together to develop a workable plan to correct so many years of neglect of our infrastructure.

Sincerely,



James H. (Jim) McDaniel, Sr.
2016 Board Chair



Rita Berry, IOM, CCEC
President/CEO