



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the people of the Palmetto State, I would like to congratulate the Charleston Tea Plantation family on the unveiling and dedication of your South Carolina Historical Marker.

It's a great day in South Carolina when one of our homegrown businesses is recognized for the role it has played in the history of our state. Since the first tea plants arrived in our country from China in the 1700's, the Palmetto State has been a leader in America's efforts to grow and produce tea domestically. The Charleston Tea Plantation may be young, relatively speaking, but each and every *Camellia sinensis* bush is descended from the Pinehurst Tea Plantation plants that were grown and harvested in Summerville in what was our country's first successful tea enterprise. Today, as the proud producer of 100 percent American tea, the Charleston Tea Plantation, along with the history behind it, is another example of what makes our state so special.

Michael and I send our congratulations on today's historical marker dedication and wish you the best for a wonderful event. God bless.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nikki", is written over the typed name "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/kt

A large, handwritten "Congratulations!" in blue ink is written diagonally across the bottom right of the page.