

**March 10, 2015**

**The following was sent ONLINE March 5, 2015. To date, I still have no reply. I have contacted the Governor's Office before ONLINE and for some reason, never get a response. Is there a reason for this? Doesn't anyone "man" the ONLINE CONTACT since it IS offered?**

**Am therefore, "copying and pasting" the online message, and mailing it today in regular mail. Please know there must be some sort of assistance in place for those such as myself on a very limited and fixed Disability income to meet the exceptionally high taxes Berkeley County says I owe due to buying a 2014 Honda Odyssey - buying "new" had a much lower interest rate and I was offered a 'new' buying program through Honda - a "lease" payment for buying new so that the payment is locked in at a "lease type" payment which will not increase at the end of a normal lease period of three years.**

**I have so many out-of-pocket medical costs as Medicare is only insurance I can afford. With my living expenses, no longer affording increase in Rent, car payment, and medical costs, I simply cannot meet the \$425 [reduced] tax amount Berkeley County states I owe, stating there "is nothing more they can do".**

**Could someone PLEASE address my plea for assistance or at least, send me in a direction I might be able to ask for a one time assistance to remedy this situation? I NEED my car - I'm very close to possibly having to live in it! I'm quite serious.**

**Thanking you ...**

**Patricia A. Stuart**

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**ONLINE MESSAGE:**

**"I would like an email address for the Governor's Office - or at least for someone on her staff that could address a situation that has been created due to a very fixed Disability income that doesn't afford me the ability to pay the total taxes owed on my vehicle (since I own no real property) by the time my license tag decal expires end of April.**

**I want to forward the email exchanges that have gone back and forth from the DMV so that Governor Haley's Office recognizes there is a very real need for a "relief system" that should be in place within the DMV that would allow those taxpayers who exist/survive on limited and low incomes, the opportunity to pay the total amount due in smaller increments more affordable to their living needs. I asked for a "payment plan" - not a "hand out"; I was informed there is none. I was also shown there is no concern for my situation only reiteration of "WHO" the DMV is. I asked IF the tax department could direct me to anyone who might know information that would be able to help my situation, but was again, reminded of "WHO" the DMV is, and nothing more.**

It is both disheartening and very disappointing to those of us who struggle daily just to survive, to realize that while we want to be responsible citizens, there is no compassion demonstrated by those whose job it is to inform us of "what we owe", for the circumstances we face.

Please send me an e-address where I can forward the emails regarding this matter so that the future might improve for others such as myself ... who WILL pay the amount, just need a little help getting it there.

"Thanks" for your time.

Pat Stuart [pas967@outlook.com](mailto:pas967@outlook.com)

**March 10, 2015**

**NOTE:**

**I did telephone “Pam” as Lori suggested, yesterday - Monday, March 9, and again, “Pam” stated there was nothing more that can be done by the Tax Department. She suggested I get a estimate for my car’s “retail value” from a Honda Dealership ... that IF the value was NOT more than \$22,000, they could give an additional discount. I explained that with Honda’s Odyssey’s reputation of being “best Van” by Consumer’s Reports, there was no chance of their doing that. I did call them and ask, and their ‘ball park’ figure - without their “seeing” my car, was \$29,000 - even after one year and 15,000 miles.**

**So again ... can ANYONE help me with the \$425 taxes Berkeley County, SC, states I owe based on my 2014 Honda Odyssey?**

**QUESTION: HOW do OTHER “low incomes” meet these ‘standard’ taxes? I’ve observed those who get Food Assistance and FREE Medical driving LUXURY cars ... so, how do THEY meet paying such high taxes???**

**~ Patricia A Stuart Cell: 740.438.7158**

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## Re: Tax Notice for 2015

From: **Lori Glover** (lori.glover@berkeleycountysc.gov)

Sent: Thu 3/05/15 3:55 PM

To: Pat Stuart (pas967@outlook.com)

The Auditor's Office does mail the bills out two months in advance. Please contact Pam in the Auditor's office to verify the value of your car. She had lowered the bill already based on the NADA book value. Also, if you are disabled, please let her know that. These things can be checked to see if the bill can be lowered anymore. Please contact Pam at 843-719-4033.

Thanks,

Loir

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From: Pat Stuart <pas967@outlook.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2015 2:12 PM

To: Lori Glover

Subject: RE: Tax Notice for 2015

Thanks, Lori, for reminding me **WHO** the DMV IS ... all I asked was *IF* you or *anyone* in the tax department had knowledge of anyone or any department you might direct me so that I might find a workable solution.

**SUGGESTION:** The DMV recommends to whomever, that a "relief system" is put into place for those who live with low incomes.

**ALSO ...** it would be very helpful if the DMV would give a person more time to pay their taxes by getting the "amount owed" in the mail at least, two months prior to the expiration. That would give the tax-payer more time to budget the amount needed, especially when it is such a large amount!

I did **NOT** ask for a "hand out", I just needed to find a way to be able to pay the tax amount due, which in my opinion (not that my opinion matters), I believe this amount is excessive.

I am **SURE** there are many out there as myself doing all they can to survive these days ... I doubt I am the first person your department has had asking similar questions for some sort of payment plan; it **SHOULD** be a possibility. The fact that these replies only reiterate **WHAT** the DMV IS/DOES, is a clear demonstration that no one really cares **HOW** the person needing their license tag decal gets the tax money due, just get it, or no tag decal!

**"Thanks" for your compassionate concern. One day, YOU will be 71 years in age *IF* you are so Blessed to live to that age. Hopefully you will never be in a position of needing a home, not to mention a car (as I do, both), and hopefully, you will never be so unfortunate as to become disabled ... but you WILL indeed, become aged. Unless you have a hefty retirement to fall back on, or happen to be so Blessed as being amongst the wealthy, please know that one day, YOUR income will be limited, too.**

**Because of this situation and having no one person to "address" this concern, I am forwarding this entire thread to the Governor's Office. Perhaps there IS someone out there somewhere who can remedy this situation? Maybe the legislators???**

**~ Patricia A Stuart**

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**From:** lori.glover@berkeleycountysc.gov  
**To:** pas967@outlook.com  
**Subject:** Fw: Tax Notice for 2015  
**Date:** Thu, 5 Mar 2015 15:24:49 +0000

The DMV issues decals and registrations. The taxes have to be paid before the DMV will renew the tag. Sorry, but the taxes need to be paid by the end of April.  
Thank you,  
Lori

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**From:** Barbara Guerry  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2015 9:40 AM  
**To:** Lori Glover  
**Subject:** Fw: Tax Notice for 2015

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**From:** Pat Stuart <pas967@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2015 9:09 AM  
**To:** Barbara Guerry  
**Subject:** RE: Tax Notice for 2015

**NO ONE you can direct me or this matter to?**

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**From:** barbara.guerry@berkeleycountysc.gov  
**To:** pas967@outlook.com  
**Subject:** Re: Tax Notice for 2015

Date: Thu, 5 Mar 2015 13:44:48 +0000

I am sorry but there is nothing I can do for you if the payment is not made by the end of April your tag will expire.

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**From:** Pat Stuart <pas967@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2015 11:34 PM  
**To:** Barbara Guerry  
**Subject:** RE: Tax Notice for 2015

Barbara ... I can't pay that. Since I have no credit cards, what do I do now? I get only \$715.00 bi-weekly ... there's simply no way. It's a year old and I have 15,000 miles on it - do I get any deduction for high mileage? By April, it will be more than that.

I know that when a customer cannot pay utilities, payment plans can usually be arranged. HOW do low incomes meet such high taxes? Perhaps this doesn't seem "high" to anyone working in the tax department, but I am devastated by it. Who can I appeal this with?

Thank you.

~ Pat Stuart

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**From:** barbara.guerry@berkeleycountysc.gov  
**To:** pas967@outlook.com  
**Subject:** Re: Tax Notice for 2015  
**Date:** Wed, 4 Mar 2015 20:50:44 +0000

I am sorry Ms Stuart but we do not offer a payment plan at this time however I did get your bill reduced to 425.88

thank you  
Barbara

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**From:** Pat Stuart <pas967@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2015 5:09 PM  
**To:** Web Treasurer  
**Subject:** Tax Notice for 2015

**Dear Carolyn Umphlett, Treasurer, or To Whom It Concerns:**

**I just received my tax assessment for 2015 based on my vehicle since I own no property in Charleston, and I nearly fell to the floor! Sorry, but I am still in shock with the amount stated that**

**I owe. I am 71 years in age and being that I live in an "affordable housing" apartment complex based on the median income for Berkeley County - a "tax credit" property for the LOW INCOME ... there is no way I can come up with \$474.24 for the decal for my car tag!**

**My income is that of Disability - very fixed! It's all I can do to pay Rent as I get no subsidy for Rent or anything! My car is a 2014 Odyssey as my older Odyssey died (after the third transmission!). Buying a new car was less interest than buying a used vehicle. I am in a "buying program" that allows me to make "lease-type" payments in order to buy a vehicle - at the end of the normal three year "leasing" period, I will be able to continue to buy my vehicle with the lower lease-type "payment" locked in - that payment can NOT be increased.**

**PLEASE ... there has to be some way I can manage this huge increase in my taxes. While I know it is based on my newer car, is there a "payment plan" where I can make this payment over time? I have so much out-of-pocket medical debt currently; I have only Medicare Medical.**

**If the world's expenses don't stop escalating, I am going to be forced out on the streets! Either that, or give up buying food or do without medical care altogether! Other than those options, bankruptcy is the only choice I will have left and I do NOT want to go that route as I've worked diligently to have a good credit status.**

**PLEASE tell me there is a workable solution to this unbelievable problem I am now facing. I have NO CREDIT CARDS!**

**"Thank you" for your time and any helpful information you can forward.**

**Sincerely,**

**Patricia A Stuart [pas967@outlook.com](mailto:pas967@outlook.com)  
305 Seven Farms Dr #503  
Daniel Island, SC 29492**

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