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Subject: Legislative Update- Week Of 01/19/2016-01/21/2016

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Legislative Update- Week Of 01/19/2016-01/21/2016

Here are the highlights from the first week of 2016 legislative session in the Senate –

ROADS AND BRIDGES – There were several discussions last week among senators about roads and bridges. I expect the Finance Committee to vet various ideas on Tuesday with the full Senate to begin debate on Wednesday.

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS – Governor Nikki Haley delivered her 6th State of the State Address last Wednesday night. You can watch a replay of the speech [here](#) or read a transcript of the speech [here](#). At one point during the speech, Governor Haley asked senators to stand if they support requiring legislators to disclose the sources of their private income and independent investigations of ethics complaints. Those who have read my updates over the past couple years know I have been very involved in trying to push those ethics reforms, so I was happy to stand in response to the Governor's question.

STATE TAX REFUNDS – Last week the SC Department of Revenue announced a new fraud prevention effort that will delay processing of early tax returns. For returns filed before March 1, DOR expects to issue refunds by the end of March.

STATE OF SCDOT – Last week the SCDOT released its State of SCDOT report for 2016. You can read the report [here](#).

Last Week's Meetings

On Tuesday night, I attended Lexington County night in Columbia. This annual event is a great opportunity to see many of the impressive things happening in Lexington County.

On Wednesday afternoon, I spoke with the South Carolina Forestry Association's Board and discussed issues facing South Carolina.

On Wednesday night, I attended Governor Nikki Haley's State of the State Address.

On Saturday, I attended a retirement drop-in for Gerald Clanton at Hickory Knob State Park. Mr. Clanton has been the Park Manager for many years and is retiring next month.

On Sunday, I dropped by a reception honoring Greg Anderson and Robert Maddox. Mr. Anderson recently retired as Edgefield County School District's superintendent, while Mr. Maddox has just taken over as the new superintendent.

Constituent Interests

TOWN HALL MEETINGS – I have held around 120 town hall meetings throughout our district over the past 8 years, and I really appreciate the hundreds of folks who have participated. These town hall meetings give me a chance to keep you updated about what's going on in Columbia and, more importantly, allow me to hear what's on your mind. I'm already working on the next round of meetings, which I hope to schedule for February. I'll get the schedule out soon.

Savannah Lakes Village

Recreation Center – McCormick Room
Monday 2/1/2016
6:00 – 7:30

Merriwether Middle School
Cafeteria
Monday 2/15/2016
6:00 – 7:30

Circle Fire Department (Saluda)
Tuesday, 2/16/2016
6:30-8:00

Edgefield County Council Chambers
Thursday 2/25/2016
6:00 – 7:30

Midland Valley High School
Auditorium
Monday, 2/29/2015
6:00 – 7:30

I am still working to schedule meetings in Lexington County and probably another meeting in Aiken County. I will get those dates to you as soon as I can.

PUBLIC HEARING ON WIDENING OF BELVEDERE–CLEARWATER ROAD – SCDOT plans to widen Belvedere-Clearwater Road in Aiken County from Old Sudlow Lake Road to U.S. 1. As part of that process, SCDOT will hold a public hearing on the proposals on Thursday, January 28, 5:00-7:00 p.m., at Lakeside Baptist Church in Clearwater. 5:00-6:00 will be an informal viewing of plans. 6:00-7:00 SCDOT will explain the project and accept public comments/questions. If you want to comment, you must sign up at the church between 5:00 and 6:00. If you would like additional information, please contact Ms. Michelle Shepherd, SCDOT Program Manager, at 803-737-4596.

VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS – Each county has a Veterans Affairs Officer whose purpose is to assist veterans and their families with filing, presenting, and prosecuting all claims which they have for money compensation, hospitalization, training, and insurance benefits under federal law. If you have questions about veterans' benefits or the services these officers provide, you can contact the officers at:

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WANT TO SEE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ACTION? - The Senate meets in statewide session on Tuesdays at 12:00, Wednesdays at 2:00, and Thursdays at 11:00. Committees and subcommittees meet Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings, and Thursday mornings. You can watch live coverage of the Senate, House of Representatives, and committees [here](#).

OUR SENATE DISTRICT – Senate district 25 consists of all of Edgefield County and parts of Aiken, Lexington, McCormick, and Saluda Counties. If you'd like to see the district map, go [here](#).

VOTING RECORD – If you'd like to see how I've voted on issues, go [here](#). You can always check to see how I vote by going to my website, www.senatormassey.com, and clicking on the "Voting Record" tab.

SPEAKING WITH GROUPS – Several groups, clubs, and classes around our Senate district have invited me to attend their meetings and provide legislative updates. If you would like for me to come speak with your group, please let me know.

EMAIL UPDATES – If you know of people in or around District 25 who do not receive my updates but would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me. You can also forward this email to them and encourage them to sign up for the updates at www.senatormassey.com.

Sincerely,

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P.S. Please visit www.senatormassey.com for more posts, news, and video updates. Also, please "friend" me on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter \(@shanemassey\)](#).

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