

From: The Ericksons <erickson4@charter.net>
To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
Date: 11/28/2011 5:17:38 PM
Subject: RE: Orangeburg's Possible New Lumber Mill

Hi Katherine!

Sorry for the wait – I did not have her phone number & have sent a follow up email request.

Thanks!!!

S-

From: Veldran, Katherine [mailto:KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2011 3:27 PM
To: The Ericksons
Subject: RE: Orangeburg's Possible New Lumber Mill

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving. When you have a chance please email me Lee's contact number?

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you,
Katherine

From: The Ericksons [mailto:erickson4@charter.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2011 6:04 PM
To: 'Lee Bessinger'
Cc: 'robert ford'; LarryMartin@scsenate.gov; brian.murtha@usmc.mil; jclyburn.supercommittee@mail.house.gov
Subject: RE: Orangeburg's Possible New Lumber Mill

Hi Lee,

Thanks for writing and sharing your concerns. I agree with you that there are too many "give-aways" in our quest to bring businesses to our state. I also agree that the Jasper Port is vital to the economic health and vitality of our region. I am not specifically familiar with the Orangeburg timber company you mention but I will look into it. Additionally, I will share this with Senator Davis and the Governors' office for their comments.

I'll be in touch,
Shannon

Representative Shannon S. Erickson
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From: Lee Bessinger [mailto:bossldybessinger@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2011 12:33 PM
To: The Erickson's
Cc: robert ford; LarryMartin@scsenate.gov; brian.murtha@usmc.mil; jclyburn.supercommittee@mail.house.gov
Subject: Orangeburg's Possible New Lumber Mill

Dear Shannon:

In my latest travels I happened to learn that Orangeburg, South Carolina is in the running, with 2 other states, for a

massive lumber mill to mill and export one or more of these states' timber. The other states are Florida and North Carolina. The company is owned by an Austrian; however its main facilities are located in Germany. It is my understanding that Governor Haley and her legislative entourage visited their plant in Germany this past June. It is my understanding that this new lumber mill will hire approximately 350 people and they are currently working on the Air Quality through the EPA (handled by SC DHEC) permitting for this site in each of 3 states. Public Hearings will be scheduled shortly.

There is also the matter of the tax concessions that have to be negotiated to entice this lumber mill into our State. Will these tax concessions be solely at the expense of the taxpayers of Charleston and Orangeburg, or the entire State? What does our State Legislators know of this company and its financial health before and present? Is it possible that this Austrian Corporation wants two (2) facilities in the United States and playing one off of the other to ensure favorable concessions in each? What is the quality of the trees in each of these states?

Is it true that South Carolina has cut funding causing the close of as many as 4 mental facilities in the upper state? Or that children in Foster Homes are subject to being returned to their parents after a 120 day expiration date, or turned over to other family members to cut the cost of paying Foster parents for their care? And, if this is in fact true, pray tell how does the State believe that the other family members are supposed to pay for the care of these children if they are living on limited fixed incomes? Is South Carolina putting the vulnerable at risk to cut monies? Do you not see the hypocrisy in possibly putting vulnerable people at risk to cut spending in South Carolina, yet giving tax breaks to a corporation for possibly 350 jobs?

Inasmuch as our own Port Royal Port's Authority was closed by the State of South Carolina, it appears that South Carolina may have been hindered by having only one (1) Port, Charleston, to accept the massive timber for export to this Corporation's world clientele. North Carolina currently has 2 Ports, Port of Morehead - 4 miles from the Atlantic, and Port of Wilmington, further inland, such as the Port of Savannah. Thus, could this be the reason that Governor Haley pushed through the wants of the Port of Savannah in their dredging permits? And, where does the Jasper County's Port stand in all of this, especially since so much of our County's time and partnering into economic issues seemed to be based on the final realization of the Jasper Port's Authority? Would not Jasper Port assist us in enticing manufacturing companies to our area since they will have a closer port to import and export, instead of Charleston? Has an agreement been hammered out in the State of South Carolina as to the only employment that will be allowed in our area? Are we never to have a chance to bring back in manufacturing such as Charleston or other areas enjoy? Or have we been sold to the highest bidder who now has control of our area lock stock and barrel, with no money in their pockets because their masters are seeking cuts in the deficit?

While Orangeburg can certainly use the jobs for their area, what have our elected officials done, or are they doing, for Beaufort County, especially Northern Beaufort County, in bringing any type of jobs that would raise the level of people's lives in our area, including for our craftspeople? The recent economic study performed by the recreated Economic Network is a joke and seems to cater to the whims of another entity within their group.

Does Governor Haley believe she has given Beaufort County its State economic bolster with the salvation of The Heritage on Hilton Head, that is located in Southern Beaufort County? And, in doing so, she was allowed to involve herself in the Port of Savannah dredging issue? Is that why Charleston quieted down when things were explained to them, yet the State did not notify the rest of us especially the Counties directly impacted by her actions, Beaufort and Jasper? Or did they, and our elected officials fail to notify us?

Shannon, can you please forward this to Senator Davis, as I know he feels the same way about providing tax concession and incentives to business as I do. Can you also please forward it on to Governor Haley and ask her to explain why she did this Beaufort and Jasper County and what plans she has to bring the jobs we need in our area to survive? Please let me know how do we even the playing field for northern Beaufort County when all the odds are stacked against us by either our own Governor, other legislators, corporations, or other entities?

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you concerning these matters.

Leilani (Lee) Bessinger