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December 21, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R Haley
Governor, State of South Carolina
Box 12267
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Governor:

As I am mindful of your schedule, I suggest we cancel my appointment with you January 6, 2015 because the South Carolina State Engineer's Office did not adopt changes that were to be published as Appendix F of the Manual for State Permanent Improvements PAT II (special inspections). The proposed changes in state procedures were the subject of our meeting and I am grateful for your willingness to meet on the matter.

Should the State Engineer's Office reassess special inspections guidelines or wish to make changes that I do not believe benefit the state or the engineering community, I may wish to reschedule this meeting.

Nevertheless, here are the points I would have made concerning the proposed changes (Appendix F draft):

- The health, safety and welfare of the citizens is better served with independent inspectors because they are like a second set of eyes and minds reviewing others' work. This cross check by a third party better insures plans and construction are completed correctly.
- The proposed changes would have resulted in less qualified service without any cost savings to the taxpayers of South Carolina.
- These changes would have deprived a number of engineering firms work. In fact, I suspect employees would lose their jobs if the State did not use third party inspectors.

- The state may not have a way to enforce all of the steps of the proposed procurement process resulting in architects basing selection of Building Inspectors solely on price and not on qualifications or certifications.
- The architects/engineers of the buildings being inspected would be in charge of contracting those providing the inspections and this presents a conflict of interest.
- Since the owner (State) hires the special inspectors, there is no connection with the design firm; thus if a dispute arises between the owner and the designer, the special inspectors are paid. Under the previously proposed changes, firms may have been unable to collect receivables in a timely manner (or at all) if a dispute arises between the architect and the State Agency over issues unrelated to inspection services.
- Also, some design firms do not value special inspections and are unable to differentiate between competing special inspection firms.

Joe Jones, ACEC-SC Executive Director, would have accompanied me to this meeting. He would have confirmed that Appendix F, as it was to be published, would have had a significant negative impact on a number of South Carolina firms.

Again, thank you for your interest in this issue and for agreeing to me.

Happy Holidays,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Barefoot', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Barefoot, PE
Mead & Hunt, Inc.