



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

May 31, 2011

Dear Members of the Senate,

Tort reform is very important in recruiting companies to South Carolina and protecting our existing businesses from frivolous lawsuits. Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida each have a strong cap on punitive damages, and to remain economically competitive, South Carolina must adopt legal standards similar to our neighboring states.

I ask that you pass a meaningful Tort Reform bill this week that includes reasonable limits on punitive damages.

House Bill 3375, as passed by the House of Representatives, and Senate Bill 22 and Senate Bill 23, as introduced, all have strong caps on punitive damages limited to the greater of three times compensatory damages or \$350,000. **An amendment will be offered to make this change, and I ask that you support it. This amendment will be one of the votes on the Report Card for Tort Reform.**

This is a vote about jobs – plain and simple.

Time is growing short. We must act quickly to improve the business climate of our State by enacting strong Tort Reform. Let's make the people and businesses of South Carolina proud!

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/tw