

From: Rep. Bill Taylor  
Sent: 1/23/2015 12:48:53 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki  
Cc:  
Subject: Roads, Taxes and Jobs!

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## **Roads, Taxes, Jobs!**

Dear Friends:

Finding additional money to repair South Carolina's deteriorating roads was the major focus at the Statehouse this week.

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## **Governor Tackles Roads & Taxes**

In her State of the State address Gov. Nikki Haley offered her three pronged solution to paying for road and bridge improvements. The governor proposed raising SC's 16.5-cents per-gallon gas tax, but only if it were coupled with other reforms.

*"Let's increase the gas tax by 10 cents over the next three  
<<https://files.ctctcdn.com/b7e9246d001/6337785c-4603-4173-b19c-fdad37d1d3f7.png>> years and let's dedicate that money entirely towards  
improving our roads," she said. "That will keep our gas tax below both Georgia  
and North Carolina. And we can do it without harming our economy."*

But her caveat made it clear she would not support the increase unless it also came with:

- a nearly 30% reduction in the current top rate for the state income tax from 7% to 5%.
- the elimination of the current SC Transportation Commission, an eight-member board appointed largely by the legislature that approves all road projects in South Carolina.

The fiscal impact analysis from the nonpartisan state Revenue and Fiscal Affairs estimates that the 10-cent increase would raise nearly \$3 billion in additional revenue over the next decade. She additionally proposed to convert the vehicle sales tax solely for road improvements.

## Quick Support

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce offered support for the governor on her commitment to infrastructure, but stopped short of endorsing the idea. [The SC Club for Growth](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RbMQ3i76zL0wqe5fUYr-XjrMfOA07tNn-047IW0gaKUgJk24BLS_L82nXIUZB6dGTHFLkz-wylEDZZmAYVEAyMojkvbywQE1aOvmhbqLRK2QhwHSv4yMnQUmIRYOjxnG1AUA5wHfBQaiGhklkxUPbB4coMqqu0QHnuLXVfrB_lkOhUDeLQkq3A==&c=ZcaZOeZHkGV0cgFkALgm2oYEsEMIMdz4oIDM0Gs50GO-nkgKGxLjMA==&ch=H96IGIFGW_wpvPDUOiZTnMbMZoZdJU7UUQApNk7vM_xbAQ5Yic_jXQ==>) [<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RbMQ3i76zL0wqe5fUYr-XjrMfOA07tNn-047IW0gaKUgJk24BLS\\_L82nXIUZB6dGTHFLkz-wylEDZZmAYVEAyMojkvbywQE1aOvmhbqLRK2QhwHSv4yMnQUmIRYOjxnG1AUA5wHfBQaiGhklkxUPbB4coMqqu0QHnuLXVfrB\\_lkOhUDeLQkq3A==&c=ZcaZOeZHkGV0cgFkALgm2oYEsEMIMdz4oIDM0Gs50GO-nkgKGxLjMA==&ch=H96IGIFGW\\_wpvPDUOiZTnMbMZoZdJU7UUQApNk7vM\\_xbAQ5Yic\\_jXQ==>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RbMQ3i76zL0wqe5fUYr-XjrMfOA07tNn-047IW0gaKUgJk24BLS_L82nXIUZB6dGTHFLkz-wylEDZZmAYVEAyMojkvbywQE1aOvmhbqLRK2QhwHSv4yMnQUmIRYOjxnG1AUA5wHfBQaiGhklkxUPbB4coMqqu0QHnuLXVfrB_lkOhUDeLQkq3A==&c=ZcaZOeZHkGV0cgFkALgm2oYEsEMIMdz4oIDM0Gs50GO-nkgKGxLjMA==&ch=H96IGIFGW_wpvPDUOiZTnMbMZoZdJU7UUQApNk7vM_xbAQ5Yic_jXQ==>), a group that opposes nearly every tax hike, quickly endorsed her plan. The [Americans for Tax Reform](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RbMQ3i76zL0wqe5fUYr-XjrMfOA07tNn-047IW0gaKUgJk24BLS_L82nXIUZB6dGCdzBSKsUt57k5yKO4XhGW4uEFbe7cZ9hGsw5QY4Sn9Kn1KGaKpeOaXuksqKLhbK5-E6Q04WJyQOYOvHIWbgbKmDohCsc0-7SLAhWoIZ9ift5ZDL4rUjktmvca8MflrYgwIzzZ8i_xDsbuGGEgKGO2RGJfMdVMafHX_LpyEsxp-vlvrOgvsOZgHFu7Dp-OCw8nM1THn-ITq31zhXxYGAVw==&c=ZcaZOeZHkGV0cgFkALgm2oYEsEMIMdz4oIDM0Gs50GO-nkgKGxLjMA==&ch=H96IGIFGW_wpvPDUOiZTnMbMZoZdJU7UUQApNk7vM_xbAQ5Yic_jXQ==>) [<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RbMQ3i76zL0wqe5fUYr-XjrMfOA07tNn-047IW0gaKUgJk24BLS\\_L82nXIUZB6dGCdzBSKsUt57k5yKO4XhGW4uEFbe7cZ9hGsw5QY4Sn9Kn1KGaKpeOaXuksqKLhbK5-E6Q04WJyQOYOvHIWbgbKmDohCsc0-7SLAhWoIZ9ift5ZDL4rUjktmvca8MflrYgwIzzZ8i\\_xDsbuGGEgKGO2RGJfMdVMafHX\\_LpyEsxp-vlvrOgvsOZgHFu7Dp-OCw8nM1THn-ITq31zhXxYGAVw==&c=ZcaZOeZHkGV0cgFkALgm2oYEsEMIMdz4oIDM0Gs50GO-nkgKGxLjMA==&ch=H96IGIFGW\\_wpvPDUOiZTnMbMZoZdJU7UUQApNk7vM\\_xbAQ5Yic\\_jXQ==>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RbMQ3i76zL0wqe5fUYr-XjrMfOA07tNn-047IW0gaKUgJk24BLS_L82nXIUZB6dGCdzBSKsUt57k5yKO4XhGW4uEFbe7cZ9hGsw5QY4Sn9Kn1KGaKpeOaXuksqKLhbK5-E6Q04WJyQOYOvHIWbgbKmDohCsc0-7SLAhWoIZ9ift5ZDL4rUjktmvca8MflrYgwIzzZ8i_xDsbuGGEgKGO2RGJfMdVMafHX_LpyEsxp-vlvrOgvsOZgHFu7Dp-OCw8nM1THn-ITq31zhXxYGAVw==&c=ZcaZOeZHkGV0cgFkALgm2oYEsEMIMdz4oIDM0Gs50GO-nkgKGxLjMA==&ch=H96IGIFGW_wpvPDUOiZTnMbMZoZdJU7UUQApNk7vM_xbAQ5Yic_jXQ==>) also offered its support for the Governor's tax reform proposal.

Additional funding for road improvements is a complicated issue with no quick or easy solutions. It is critically important we maximize money that already exists in the budget to be redirected to road improvements; that's prudent.

The Governor's plan was a big step forward. Now that many options are on the table the General Assembly will be able to calculate the best fix to this complex and expensive funding challenge to fix our roads. I join many legislators in working with Gov. Haley to find responsible solutions to the infrastructure

challenges we face.

## **Job Help**

<https://files.ctctcdn.com/b7e9246d001/9674fd4d-9874-4c39-a2c5-f5d3ddaa20ff.png>>The governor also introduced a new proposal that would offer jobs skills training to help employees land jobs at small businesses and medium-sized companies. The initiative, known as 'Succeed SC' is patterned after the 'ReadySC' program which currently offers job training programs for large corporations such as Boeing and BMW.

## **Improving Public Education**

We have a teacher shortage in SC. We are currently graduating half the number of new teachers that are needed each year while veteran teachers are retiring in increasing numbers.

In her State of the State address, Gov. Haley called for a number of steps to improve teacher quality and recruitment in rural schools. Her proposed 'Homegrown Teacher Initiative' offers high-school students, who graduate from eligible districts, four years of subsidized tuition at any public SC college or university in exchange for not less than two years of teaching in their home district or another eligible district. Another is the 'Enhanced Student Loan Repayment' in which eligible teachers receive up to \$7,500 per year in direct student loan repayment in exchange for one year of teaching in an eligible district for up to five years. Steps like these are essential to stem our current teacher shortage.

## **Ethics Reform Advanced**

This week the House advanced legislation to reform our state's ethics laws that affects all 20,000 elected and appointed official in the state. An income disclosure measure that is part of a larger sweeping ethics reform package cleared its first hurdle in a House subcommittee and moves to the full House