129 Walton Heath Way
Aiken, SC 29803
February 2, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing this letter out of frustration for the deplorable condition of unsightly litter on so many of our roads and highways. My friends and neighbors in our community called Cedar Creek here in Aiken go out and pick up litter on Banks Mill Road every few months. We pick up mostly liquor bottles and cans, followed by fast food debris and construction type debris, which has been allowed to float off of pick- up trucks. It is so discouraging to see the road littered again almost as soon as we finish.

At the County meetings for Adopt a Highway volunteers, I have learned that there is only one paid crew for the entire Aiken County. They are trying their best but it is absurd to think they can make a dent. The volunteers simply cannot keep up. It seems that fast food restaurants should take some part in encouraging customers to be responsible and maybe that could be pursued. A Bottle Bill similar to those in many states you see listed on the cans and bottles is a proven incentive to reducing litter of returnable bottles and cans. But mostly, it would be great if people could be put to work at minimum wage to help out with this massive job.

Yesterday I drove from Aiken to Augusta along Rt. 278 and it was the worst I have ever seen. I would honestly not want my friends and relatives visiting from Massachusetts to see this. It is so embarrassing. As soon as we crossed the border into Georgia, litter was barely noticeable. Why?

Please make this disgraceful problem a priority. I moved here from Massachusetts seven years ago and I have seen the problem increase enormously in that time. I spend some time driving through Arizona and never experience it. There must be a solution. I want to be proud of my adopted state again. Thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Celeste Malinowski

Cc: County Commissioner Camille Furgiuele