

From: Rep. Bill Taylor
Sent: 2/13/2015 11:08:23 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Roads Bills and Protecting the Edisto River

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Road Bills and Protecting the Edisto River

Dear Friends:

Headlining Statehouse news this week was the introduction of two plans to fix South Carolina's crumbling roads and bridges.

Two Road Plans -- Same Goal

[_<https://files.ctctcdn.com/b7e9246d001/82c8ceed-a8a2-4bea-844e-6be4a8127d1d.png>](https://files.ctctcdn.com/b7e9246d001/82c8ceed-a8a2-4bea-844e-6be4a8127d1d.png) Wednesday, the two highly-discussed road improvement funding proposals - one resembling Governor Nikki Haley's plan ([H.3580](#)) [<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0016h4gRqLfFplo1Xlw3EVqP3MnxGMTaAp_IrONpc8YmmZ286_s5IH0_VG5aif1UKKbLaPYN0ZYFRrv4Cta2d7nkfqlz-M99Ygfk6liYHxHGWFSNKB3IYtCy9JIWUGFskzmasqzRZB_jMbDnDuJrjG93vY9B51Wzi6XBHrmr7yIH-I5kX9aR0QI2aGS4an4SVu-b6lmujwa3GKBcv_v9B26NWyCOCTRcWNj&c=UyvwH3nhjihX3GCw9qQ7OIKrL9grVIIj8wl50NeKHH0mvnbADhtHxQ==&ch=o4lyz7T3XvIM_SIGZnjGEYd-0LP6V6YabpMZSWRsrp4xbfmhTYESqA==>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0016h4gRqLfFplo1Xlw3EVqP3MnxGMTaAp_IrONpc8YmmZ286_s5IH0_VG5aif1UKKbLaPYN0ZYFRrv4Cta2d7nkfqlz-M99Ygfk6liYHxHGWFSNKB3IYtCy9JIWUGFskzmasqzRZB_jMbDnDuJrjG93vY9B51Wzi6XBHrmr7yIH-I5kX9aR0QI2aGS4an4SVu-b6lmujwa3GKBcv_v9B26NWyCOCTRcWNj&c=UyvwH3nhjihX3GCw9qQ7OIKrL9grVIIj8wl50NeKHH0mvnbADhtHxQ==&ch=o4lyz7T3XvIM_SIGZnjGEYd-0LP6V6YabpMZSWRsrp4xbfmhTYESqA==>) and one from the House Transportation Infrastructure Ad-Hoc Committee ([H.3579](#)) [<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0016h4gRqLfFplo1Xlw3EVqP3MnxGMTaAp_IrONpc8YmmZ286_s5IH0_VG5aif1UKKbLZoZIKIzZxlf1p1z9a6Ut73HpUZduUkKsqMcpR6SEqEbBArnxo3ZkxUU39OQuJr-oKvxKNwqiHdnMnN7lw5n5lxtUoCvr3oWNLhaNuKb-fHQag8AC2hm5al-TEem-kMhkalh5j7OpdMMwVCGP7k1-ILlnr0fGeLk&c=UyvwH3nhjihX3GCw9qQ7OIKrL9grVIIj8wl50NeKHH0mvnbADhtHxQ==&ch=o4lyz7T3XvIM_SIGZnjGEYd-0LP6V6YabpMZSWRsrp4xbfmhTYESqA==>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0016h4gRqLfFplo1Xlw3EVqP3MnxGMTaAp_IrONpc8YmmZ286_s5IH0_VG5aif1UKKbLZoZIKIzZxlf1p1z9a6Ut73HpUZduUkKsqMcpR6SEqEbBArnxo3ZkxUU39OQuJr-oKvxKNwqiHdnMnN7lw5n5lxtUoCvr3oWNLhaNuKb-fHQag8AC2hm5al-TEem-kMhkalh5j7OpdMMwVCGP7k1-ILlnr0fGeLk&c=UyvwH3nhjihX3GCw9qQ7OIKrL9grVIIj8wl50NeKHH0mvnbADhtHxQ==&ch=o4lyz7T3XvIM_SIGZnjGEYd-0LP6V6YabpMZSWRsrp4xbfmhTYESqA==>) - were placed into bill form and officially introduced. Both bills head to the House Ways and Means Committee where work will begin to find common ground.

With the filing of the two bills House Speaker Jay Lucas stated, *"Today is a great day for South Carolina because we have two different roads plans that share the goal of repairing our infrastructure. The bottom line is that both the House and the Governor are focused on fixing our roads while simultaneously making our government more efficient. Moving forward, Governor Haley and I will continue to*

engage in open conversations. I am confident we will find common ground in the near future given the progress we have made thus far."

Protecting the Edisto River

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Legislation to protect the Edisto and other SC rivers from being drained by mega corporate farmers was filed in the House. I'm pleased to have teamed-up with Rep. James Smith (D-Columbia) to sponsor this legislation ([H.3564](#))

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0016h4qRqLfFplo1Xlw3EVqP3MnxGMTaAp_IrONpc8YmmZ286_s5IH0_VG5aif1UKKb-cqqu5UpzlrjndruMMtgxt7LyEbLqXD6o5Pi47DErkrw2DzSEYTceFNraOFYrSPZNvjSyoR1j2SxdkkMYUHqQe0ioIqBNZbTMe45RoGZ51lqu4oZlqq8-3nl_mSOyWvjXvF1c1qXNeS8syKRr2ILUz11oq0p2VCX&c=UyvwH3nhjihX3GCw9qQ7OIKrL9grVIIj8wl50NeKHH0mvnbADhtHxQ==&ch=o4lyz7T3XvIM_SIGZNIjGEYd-0LP6V6YabpMZSWRsrp4xbfmhTYESqA==>. This bill has bi-partisan support; it is not a political issue. Wagener's Doug Busbee led dozens of local farmers, outdoorsmen and "friends" of the Edisto in a Statehouse news conference supporting our efforts. This legislation is an attempt to find the right path forward to insure we preserve our water resources, protect our small family farmers while encouraging agricultural economic development. A balance must be struck so we wisely use our most precious resource, water. (Read story in today's Aiken Standard.) [Read \[Aiken Standard Editorial\]\(#\) \[\]\(http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0016h4qRqLfFplo1Xlw3EVqP3MnxGMTaAp_IrONpc8YmmZ286_s5IH0_VG5aif1UKKbeHgp6BglOPrYFiBpQNUtPQwp72-2oEWHCtsdkEKC_K-wmeK0LSVztHiWkAJf8SXcnnRBxYw7PrtbfN3OVrP_VHwPD1dh8-1hnBsOUmNhg0akF94I8otyAavb5u9B-IAsAMwy8b8cU5x7cvyilTKc8-o7pD6YnibUq-MBsiSn01OLC_NfwCUEkhgbqdMfGD-l&c=UyvwH3nhjihX3GCw9qQ7OIKrL9grVIIj8wl50NeKHH0mvnbADhtHxQ==&ch=o4lyz7T3XvIM_SIGZNIjGEYd-0LP6V6YabpMZSWRsrp4xbfmhTYESqA==>\)](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0016h4qRqLfFplo1Xlw3EVqP3MnxGMTaAp_IrONpc8YmmZ286_s5IH0_VG5aif1UKKbK3nhQlyiz1jMs2_rXYZ-DmEj3X4qsTOIBwDYFkC3gepjCE9xU3aleyINJDAZxK7kat50SLHSpaTLRGkQ4hudTxLr9O9TtBicXgB31LtbGpJwuTtEPW3c2WOgbCusVIQbxbGc4FZqnAynIIlrJFBQ0Duscum3YHIsXwi8bljnWp_CdYdFeufeYzeb_4F26B087Oxu_fUbAdUhJRsw4DdYwRdzlt3pB94bKhWhPX1YWrbYQrccN5Mpw==&c=UyvwH3nhjihX3GCw9qQ7OIKrL9grVIIj8wl50NeKHH0mvnbADhtHxQ==&ch=o4lyz7T3XvIM_SIGZNIjGEYd-0LP6V6YabpMZSWRsrp4xbfmhTYESqA==>)

Regulatory Reform - A Plus for SC Businesses

Government red tape and over-regulation burden job creators and stifle small business start-ups. I hear this repeatedly from business owners in Aiken County. This week we passed a regulatory reform law in the House placing a sunset provision on all regulation laws. Many regulation laws are outdated, and this new measure would give an automatic expiration to those laws five years after implementation. This ensures we don't have cumbersome and outdated regulations hampering business owners. The bill now heads to the Senate; I hope they will join us in lending a hand to the SC's businesses and innovators that drive our economy.

Protecting the Unborn

The Pain-Capable Child Protection Act has again passed the House on a vote of 80-27. The House approved this same bill last year, then it died in the Senate. The legislation bans abortion at 20 weeks of pregnancy; the fetus can feel pain at 20 weeks of development. Abortion now is legal in SC through 24 weeks of pregnancy. After 24 weeks, the third trimester, abortions are banned in the state unless the mother's life is in danger.

Ethics: House Moves Forward, Senate Stumbles

The House took additional steps this week to pass the next set of ethics reform legislation - part of our larger ethics reform package. We passed the Whistleblower and Public Employee Protection Act providing public employees legal protections and substantially increased financial incentives for reporting unethical behavior when your tax dollars are on the line.

We approved a second bill that removes loopholes in our existing ethics statutes. The act also gives clarity to the proper use of political campaign dollars. Meanwhile, the Senate's comprehensive ethics bill was derailed after members