



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

July 14, 2016

Mr. Thomas Podkulski
817 Laquinta Loop
Murrells Inlet, South Carolina 29576

Dear Mr. Podkulski,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Senate Bill 1258, commonly known as "the roads bill," which was signed into law on June 8, 2016.

Make no mistake, I believe taking care of our roads, bridges, and other infrastructure is a core function of government. We can and we should invest more dollars in transportation – that is something I have always supported. Also, I have always advocated for restructuring the Transportation Department and its governance. That being said, to claim this law is anything close to a victory, and to represent it in any way as a true solution to our infrastructure problems is deceptive to the public.

Although this bill does address the gubernatorial appointment of the Transportation Commissioners the confirmation process is deeply flawed and inherently preserves the old status quo of political horse trading that so often occurs in Columbia. At its core, South Carolina will remain a state where all 170 members of the legislature control our transportation system rather than holding a single executive accountable.

The funding components of Senate Bill 1258 take a step forward, but this funding stream is not of the magnitude or sustainability to address the long-term needs of our highway system. We must find a permanent fix to transportation infrastructure funding, a fix that does not exist in this legislation.

When the legislature reconvenes in January of 2017, I would hope that transportation will be at the top of the legislative agenda. Our business is unfinished, and I encourage you to contact your legislators in support of truly comprehensive infrastructure reform.

Again, thank you for your involvement and concern. Please do not hesitate to offer your views or contact me in the future. God bless.

My very best,

Handwritten signature of Nikki R. Haley in black ink.
Nikki R. Haley

NRH/ahp

Handwritten signature of Thomas Podkulski in black ink.