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Subject: Press Conference: Economic Impact of South Carolina Agribusiness
Location: 1st Floor Lobby, Statehouse
When: 2/10/2015 1:00:00 PM - 1:20:00 PM

APPROVED BY: NH on 2/2

EVENT: Press Conference: Economic Impact of South Carolina Agribusiness

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2015

TIME: 1:00 PM

LOCATION: 1st Floor Lobby, Statehouse

LOCATION SET-UP: Podium and microphone

ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT: internal

SCHEDULING CONTACT:

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PRIMARY STAFF: Ashton Lee

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PURPOSE: During a press conference, Governor Nikki Haley and Commissioner Hugh Weathers will share key facts from a study conducted by Dr. James London, London & Associates, of Clemson, South Carolina regarding the \$41.7 billion statewide economic impact of South Carolina's diverse Agribusiness Cluster.

PRESS: Yes.

PUBLIC: Yes.

INVITED BY: Commission Weathers

INTRODUCED BY: Commissioner Weathers

ATTENDEES:

Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina
Hugh Weathers, S.C. Commissioner of Agriculture
David Winkles, President, S.C. Farm Bureau
George Askew, Ph.D. Vice President, Public Service Activities, Clemson
Jack Shuler, Palmetto Agribusiness Council (PABC)
Henry E. "Gene" Kodama, S.C. State Forester and Secretary to the S.C. Forestry Commission

SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:

Commissioner introduces the team that conducted the study, and then introduces the Governor

Governor opens and shares the highlights and key numbers from the study

Commissioner shares more in depth about the study

Q&A with Commissioner and Governor

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

- South Carolina's economy is growing.
- One of our top priorities is seeing that all sectors of our economy are thriving and that all areas of our state prosper.
- Agribusiness is a diverse industry, representing farms and agriculture, food processing and packaging, and forestry among other activities.
- Agribusiness is a major driver of economic development in our rural areas.
- The agribusiness cluster (agriculture and forestry) is the state's largest industry.
- The total economic impact is \$41.7 billion annually – a 23% increase since 2006.
- Agribusiness accounts for nearly 10% of the state's economic activity.
- In 2013, the agribusiness cluster accounted for 109,141 direct jobs and a total employment of 212,530 jobs, representing 10.5% of the state's workforce.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION: