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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

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**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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby, Statehouse

**LOCATION SET-UP:** Podium and microphone

**ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT:** internal

**SCHEDULING CONTACT:**

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Meredith Atkinson  
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**PRIMARY STAFF:** Ashton Lee

**ADVANCE STAFF:** Zach Pippin

**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:**