



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

March 9, 2016

Mr. Robert Escoe
204 Bedford Road
Troy, South Carolina 29848-2349

Dear Mr. Escoe,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding my proposal that addresses the challenges our state faces when it comes to tax reform, state government restructuring, and state infrastructure funding.

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.

But, we have to do a better job spending those dollars. We need a system that addresses our needs from a statewide perspective and doesn't prioritize roads based on which region, county, or city has the most influential legislator. And we should not raise taxes to do it. Not when we have \$1.3 billion in new revenue this year on the heels of \$1 billion in new revenue last year. We're overcharging you, the taxpayers – and I won't agree to charge you anymore.

So, as I have made clear to the General Assembly, I will not sign any piece of legislation that raises taxes – not in year one, not in year five, not in year ten. I will not sign any piece of legislation that does not include real reform to the Department of Transportation. And I will not buy into the idea that we somehow cannot afford to cut income taxes for the citizens of South Carolina. If the General Assembly passes legislation that cuts our taxes, reforms our flawed transportation system, and invests in our roads, I will sign it. If they pass legislation that does not, I will veto it.

The General Assembly has spent much of the last two legislative sessions talking about roads. It's time for action. I strongly encourage you to contact your state senator and representative and tell them the time for delay is over, and the time for real transportation reform is now.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nikki".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/ahp

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Escoe".