

From: Mayer, Doug <DougMayer@gov.sc.gov>
To: Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>
CC: Baker, Josh <JoshBaker@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 1/13/2014 8:57:24 AM
Subject: RE: Cover Letter Draft

Made a couple edits. We need to highlight the tax portion, can you add a paragraph on that?

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January 14, 2014

To the People of South Carolina and the Members of the General Assembly:

The budget that I submit today builds upon the themes that have been at the core of my administration's priorities from the very beginning – creating jobs and improving the business climate in South Carolina, providing a better education for our children, making our state a safer place to live and work, finding ways to develop our infrastructure without raising taxes, and protecting the most vulnerable members of our society. Together, we've made real progress on every one of those fronts. We've announced more than 42,000 new jobs since 2011 and nearly \$10 billion in capital investment. The unemployment rate has fallen from 10.6% when I took the oath to 7.1% now – the lowest rate in five years. And more than 69,000 more of our neighbors are working today than on the day I became Governor.

After spending a year traveling the state and meeting with teachers, parents, principals, superintendents, legislators, and others who care so deeply about education, I announced an K-12 Education Reform Initiative last week that puts us on the path to better schools for all of our children and more opportunity for those who are growing up in our poorest and most rural communities. I hope you'll give my proposals serious consideration.

My proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 also places a high priority on making South Carolina safer, by putting more law enforcement officers on the street, giving them the tools and equipment they need to get the job done, and supporting them with more prosecutors both through the Prosecution Coordination Commission and the Attorney General's Office. We have seen successes in the past three years – shuttering nearly 1,300 meth labs and reducing highway fatalities to levels not seen since 1982 – but we can and we must do better.

Last year, I asked that when the "money tree" falls in May – as it seems to every year – the proceeds be used to improve our bridge and highway infrastructure. I'm grateful that you honored this request, and this year, I'll ask you to do it again. We're finding ways to fix our roads without raising taxes in South Carolina and that's something we can all be proud about.

And finally, in this budget, I ask that we undertake a major new effort to drive down the waiting lists for programs that serve the disabled and special needs communities. Although we have been able to increase enrollment in these programs since 2011, the queue for these services has been growing even faster. That has to stop.

You've heard me say it before, but it's a great day in South Carolina. We've made big strides in the past three years, and I look forward to working with you in 2014 to keep the momentum going.

My very best,

Nikki R. Haley

From: Soura, Christian
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 8:24 AM
To: Mayer, Doug
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Subject: Cover Letter Draft

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