



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
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October 13, 2008

The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.
Senate Finance Committee
111 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

The Honorable Dan Cooper
House Ways and Means Committee
525 Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Messrs. Chairmen,

I wanted to reply to your letter of October 3 regarding the \$149 million list of potential budget savings we sent September 29. We've taken the liberty of forwarding the attached \$320 million in further savings ideas recommended by agencies themselves after our October 7 Budget Summit – and we will be working to provide more detail where possible with regard to Executive Budget savings and the Government Efficiency and Accountability Report. This will bring to around \$470 million the list of prospective savings, with several agencies yet to report, and also represents what we believe is more than enough in the way of options as your respective committees go about finding roughly \$415 million in targeted cuts.

We are heartened that after an initially tepid response, legislative leaders now seem receptive to coming back to Columbia and balancing the budget using targeted cuts. For instance, Senator McConnell has promised to immediately contact “members and the leadership of both parties to determine when and how to return to deal with this budget situation,” and I applaud his efforts on this front. We'll continue to support quick and decisive action as the longer we wait, the more in across-the-board cuts will be taken.

I'd also say we appreciate your growing receptiveness to our budget vetoes and Executive Budget savings, even if the Socratic process in this case is beginning a few years late. As we both know, if government had not grown as it has over the last four years, we would not be dealing with these budget cuts – and in that regard I'd ask again for systematic change in government structure and spending limits that would prevent this from happening again. We will continue to offer any and all appropriate assistance as you identify targeted cuts to state government.

Thank you for your time and take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford

MS/bdf.ll

cc: The Honorable Glenn F. McConnell, President *Pro Tempore*
The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr., Speaker of the House

Enclosure