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August 23, 2016

The Honorable Nikki Haley  
Office of the Governor  
State House First Floor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing to recommend your appointment of Eric W. Smith to the South Carolina Forestry Commission Board of Commissioners. Eric's diverse professional background gives him a well-rounded perspective of the entire forestry community. Examples being: a landowner's perspective through his work with our landowner assistance program; a harvesting perspective through his efforts with the SC Forestry Association's logging education program; and an industry consumer perspective as part of the KapStone team, specifically in the areas of sustainability and certification.

The forest industry is a vital component of South Carolina's economy as you very well know. KapStone and other paper mills in our state provide over half of the \$18.6 Billion economic impact annually and offer tremendous job opportunities for SC residents. We were pleased to recently announce our partnership with Carolina Chips, Inc. to establish a wood processing facility in Holly Hill. The positive business environment in SC has proved beneficial for our company. We look forward to future investments and opportunities at our KapStone facilities based in SC.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission would benefit from the additional expertise Eric would provide from an industry prospective that is currently needed on the Board. The Forestry Commission provides essential services to protect and nurture the forest land of SC. Proper guidance and management of our state's natural resources is important to the forest industry and forest health.

Sincerely,