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**Subject:** Press Conference: County Competitiveness Taskforce  
**Location:** 1st Floor Lobby, Statehouse  
**When:** 3/2/2016 2:00:00 PM - 2:30:00 PM

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**EVENT:** Local Government Competitiveness Council Announcement

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

**TIME:** 2:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Statehouse, first floor lobby

**PURPOSE:** To announce the creation of the council by Executive Order and to recognize the members of the newly-created group.

**INTRODUCED BY:** N/A

**LENGTH OF SPEAKING:** 5 mins.

**LINE-BY-LINE:**

**Note:** We have held time from 1:50- 2:00 PM for Gov. Haley to address and thank members of the Council and emphasize the importance of their work.

2:00 PM      Gov. Haley remarks

2:05 PM      Rick Reames remarks, naming and recognition of Council members

Non-speaking attendees (behind the podium):

**Local Government Competitiveness Committee**

**Public Infrastructure**

Mr. Keller Kissam- Senior VP, SCANA

Mr. Deepal S. Eliatamby- President, Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Mr. Bob Hughes, President- Hughes Development Corporation

**Taxes, Business and Industry, and Regulation**

Mr. Burnet R. Maybank III- Attorney, Nexsen Pruet

Ms. Rebecca Gunnlaugsson- Economist, Acuitas Economics

Ms. Suzanne Pucci- Stanley Steemer

**Workforce Readiness**

Ms. Barrie B. Kirk- VP, Corporate and Continuing Education and Economic Development

Mr. Kim Phillips- HR Director, Hamrick Mills

Ms. Helen Hill- CEO, Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

**BACKGROUND:**

Rick Reames, Director of the South Carolina Department of Revenue, will chair this task force to analyze factors and criteria that impact counties' abilities to attract, retrain and develop business and industry. The task force will be made up of members with expertise in each area of evaluation whose findings are meant to assist counties in becoming more competitive in the economic development arena.

Maceo Nance, Director of Small Business and Rural Development for the South Carolina Department of Commerce, will provide additional staff support.

**SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:**

- When I came into office in 2011, I knew that job number one was fixing South Carolina's economy.
- That meant creating Team South Carolina – a team of public and private sector partners that created a culture of pro-business regulatory attitude, focusing on workforce development through South Carolina's world-class technical college system, and partnering with my Secretary of Commerce to aggressively recruit new business, retain businesses that may be on the edge of leaving our state, and growing those businesses that have always called South Carolina Home.
- Our successes have been remarkable – 73,913 jobs and \$18.3 billion in capital investment, with announcements in 45 of 46 counties. Unemployment is at 5.5%. There are more South Carolinians with jobs today now than ever in our state's history.
- But with this rising economic tide, we're finding new challenges that my administration is working every day to address.
- With shrinking unemployment, those without jobs often have a skills gap that prevents them from holding jobs. Certified Work Ready Communities, along with workforce reform legislation we're supporting this year can address that challenge.
- But when I look at 46 counties, I see 46 different unemployment rates – rates that range from 4.2% in Charleston County to 9.3% in Marion. This means 46 different communities, 46 different challenges, and 46 different opportunities to shine.
- So today, we're going to start looking county-by-county, town-by-town, and site-by-site to determine what makes each region of South Carolina competitive, and identify areas where we can improve. I can recruit companies to South Carolina, my Commerce department can incentivize its project managers to focus on recruiting businesses into rural South Carolina, but it's the locals – the people – of this state that can close a deal or lose it.
- We are excited to announce the creation of a committee that will allow us to evaluate local government structures and practices and their ability to attract and retain business and industry.
- This evaluation will allow us to cultivate a "Best Practice" model for local governments through a review of three areas: infrastructure; taxes, business and regulation; and workforce.
- The focus of the committee will be to foster and promote local economic growth and improved quality of life by evaluation of local government performance as indicated by key economic, educational and social issues under these three umbrella area, and by report of the committee's findings.
- We have put together a talented team of business people, key stakeholders and industry leaders who have the knowledge and skill to assist in helping our local governments become more competitive and hone in on areas they can improve. (list names?)
- When are local governments become more competitive, our state becomes more competitive.

**DV Task Force – DV Prosecutor Funding (\$2.9 million):**

Here is a short list of pork items in the House Ways & Means budget that were funded, rather than the \$2.9

million to end officer prosecutions of DV cases in magistrate or municipal court:

- \$1.2 million for sports marketing
- \$500k for the SC Aquarium
- \$500k for SC Artisans Center
- \$350k for College of Charleston art museum

Although these items were funded with nonrecurring dollars (and our DV recommendation was funding with recurring), these items are still straight pork.