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SC Business Community Hosts Press Conference in Support of House Road Plan....

A coalition of SC business leaders held a [press conference](#) Tuesday to voice their support for H.3516 – the House Road Funding Bill. Michelin North America President Pete Selleck and Nephron Pharmaceuticals CEO Lou Kennedy spoke on behalf of the SC Chamber at the event, emphasizing that 2017 is the year the General Assembly must finish the job on roads. “We’ve seen the situation only get worse, and we really do believe at this point we’re at the end of the road,” said Mr. Selleck. “If we do not come up with a solid plan this year that is sufficient and sustainable over the long term, we believe that going forward, it’s going to do significant damage to this state.” The House is expected to begin debate on H.3516 next week. Click [here](#) for a video of Mr. Selleck’s comments in full and click [here](#) for a photo album of the event.

#ICYMI: Chamber CEO Pens Op-Ed Urging Legislature to Finish the Job on DOT Reform...

This week, The State Newspaper ran a [Letter to the Editor](#) authored by Chamber CEO Ted Pitts on the significant, yet often overlooked reform component of the House roads plan. He writes, “If passed, it will... complete an overhaul of the state Transportation Department a decade in the making.” Click [here](#) to find out how the bill would accomplish this and why it’s a critical step in finishing the job on roads this year.

SC Secretary of State Launches New Online Business Filing System...

On Wednesday, Secretary of State Mark Hammond announced that organizations in South Carolina can now file more than 150 official business forms through a new online service built in partnership with [SC.gov](#). The new service, available [here](#), will increase efficiency and help improve support for customers by “providing a digital method for companies to incorporate, amend, merge, or dissolve a business.” It will also allow users to request and receive copies of their documents online. Check it out!

Apply Now For SC Business Week...

SC Business Week is back! [Business Week](#) offers high school students the unique opportunity to interact with SC business

leaders and peers to learn more about the ins and outs of a successful career. Applicants must have completed at least their sophomore year of high school, be recommended by their guidance counselors, rank academically in the top one-third of their class, and have demonstrated leadership skills through school and community activities. Spots are filling up quick – apply [here](#) now and check out video highlights from last year below!

#SCBIZ NEWS:

- Post and Courier: [South Carolina tourism exceeds \\$20B for first time](#)
 - Greenville News: [Michelin's Pete Selleck joins business leaders to back House roads bill](#)
 - The State: [SC budget's first draft includes \\$100 million for poor schools](#)
 - Wall Street Journal: [States Push to Raise Gasoline Taxes](#)
 - The State: [Bill aims to end election of SC schools chief](#)
-

Bills We're Watching:

S.105 - Automatic Stay (Rankin)

Removes indefinite automatic stay.

Status: Received favorable report from Senate Judiciary on 2/21 as amended On the Senate floor.

Chamber Position: Support

S.218 – Employee Benefits (Massey)

This bill reserves the right to establish and mandate employee benefits to the General Assembly.

Status: Passed the Senate by a vote of 32-8 on 2/8 moves to the House referred to House LCI Committee Received favorable report from House LCI Business & Commerce Subcommittee on 2/22 Moves to full House LCI Committee.

Chamber Position: Support

H.3220 – EEDA Coordinating Council (Allison)

This bill reestablishes the Education & Economic Development Coordinating Council, a collaborative effort between the education and business communities to strengthen our state's workforce.

Status: Passed by the House and sent to the Senate on 2/1, where it was referred to the Senate Education Committee.

Chamber Position: Support

H.3358 - Real ID (Willis)

This bill aims to update South Carolina driver's licenses in order to comply with federal law.

Status: Debate adjourned until 2/28.

Chamber Position: Support

H.3516 – Infrastructure Funding (Simrill)

House Majority Leader Gary Simrill introduced this legislation which raises \$600 million in recurring, sustainable revenue to fix our roads and bridges.

Status: On the House floor, to be debated next week.

Chamber Position: Support

H.3529 – Auxiliary Containers (Bedingfield)

This bill requires that regulations regarding the use of auxiliary containers, including plastic bags, may be done only by the General Assembly.

Status: House LCI Committee met 2/15 and the bill received a favorable report by a vote of 17-7 On the House floor. Debate adjourned until 2/28.

Chamber Position: Support

H.3565 - Automatic Stay (Fry)

Removes indefinite automatic stay.

Status: Amended and passed out of House Judiciary by a vote of 17-7 on 2/14 On the House floor Debate adjourned in the House until 2/28.

Chamber Position: Support

H.3650 - Business Licensing (Sandifer)

This bill streamlines the business licensing fee process.

Status: Introduced 2/2 and referred to House LCI Executive Subcommittee. Ted Pitts testified in support of the bill on 2/8 and the bill received a favorable report from the subcommittee. Received a favorable report from full House LCI Committee on 2/9 On the House floor. Debate adjourned until 3/1.

Chamber Position: Support

H.3726 - SC Retirement System (Herbkersman)

The state owes roughly \$20 billion more in promised benefits to retirees than it has in its pension system. This bill increases employers' contribution rates by 7 percentage points over the next 6 years, which will contribute an additional \$3.2 billion into the system.

Status: Received a favorable report from the House Ways & Means Committee on 2/16 by a vote of 20-0 On the House floor.

Chamber Position: Monitoring

Don't miss out on our Effectively Managing Conflict Lunch & Learn! 3/8/17

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- **Furman University** to [sponsor](#) entrance to **Bon Secours** Wellness Arena...

Does your company have news or an event that you'd like featured in next week's ChamberBuzz? Send info to molly.mccarthy@scchamber.net!

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