



May 15, 2013

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On April 18, you awarded me the Order Of The Palmetto, our state's highest civilian honor for my 25 years of service in the economic development arena of South Carolina. I was truly surprised, humbled and honored by this singular recognition. Your leadership, commitment and success in economic development for South Carolina make the award even more meaningful. Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce (SCDOC), joining you in the presentation was also special given the high regard that we hold for him and his associates.

We also appreciated the opportunity to again co-host The First Gentleman's Invitational Golf Tournament with your office, SCDOC and other business allies. Recognizing our existing industry and business projects in conjunction with the RBC Heritage is another classic "win-win" activity for our state. We also enjoyed working again with Ms. Katherine Veldran of your office to make the event the success that it has become.

Governor Haley, thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Cordially,

Ralph U. Thomas
President

RUT/db

cc: Robert M. "Bobby" Hitt, III
Ms. Katherine Veldran