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**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Transportation P3s; Marijuana; Military Base Closures; Sales Taxes

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**Issue: 21**

**June 22, 2015**

#### **Political Turnover Slows Transportation P3s**

The past year has seen the states of Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania close deals with the private sector to undertake some long-awaited transportation projects. But much of the talk at a recent conference on public-private partnerships, or P3s, revolved around why the market for such projects remains sluggish in the United States.

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#### **Budding Growth: Marijuana and Hemp Cultivation in the States**

Anecdotally, it's been a top cash crop in a number of states for decades. But with the opening of recreational marijuana sales in Colorado and Washington, states are just now beginning to understand the full financial impact of cannabis to government coffers.

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#### **Military Communities May Face New Round of Base Closures**

Defense policy insiders are warning that a new round of base closures and realignments may be inevitable. Congress has blocked efforts in recent years to downsize military installations, but pressures to cut defense spending are increasing the

#### **Stackable Credentials Help Students, Employers Navigate Job Market**

Navigating the array of credentials in the U. S. can be tricky, according to Larry Good, chairman of the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, but stackable credentials can simplify the process for both students and employers. Good was one of three

likelihood of new closures.

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presenters in a recent CSG eCademy webcast, "Using Stackable Credentials to Increase Job Earnings."

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### **Breadbasket to the World**

U.S. farms exported \$144.4 billion worth of agricultural products in 2013, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. The American Farm Bureau Federation says one in three U.S. farm acres is planted for export. That creates a boon to state economies.

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### **State Sales Taxes 2015**

Forty-five states levy a general statewide sales tax, with rates ranging from 2.9 to 7.5 cents per \$1 as of Jan. 1, 2015. Over the past decade, sales tax rates have remained relatively stable, with few states making significant changes.

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### **State Investments in Space Launch Facilities**

Traditionally, launching satellites and other equipment into orbit has been the exclusive purview of the federal government, but private firms recently have entered the industry. In response to increasing demand for launch facilities, several states have established entities to provide oversight and support to the tenants of their commercial spaceports.

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### **CSG, The Griffith Foundation to Provide Rideshare Programming**

The emergence of ridesharing services, such as Uber and Lyft, has sparked discussion among policymakers around the country. CSG and The Griffith Insurance Education Foundation are collaborating to provide state policymakers with nonpartisan educational programming examining the insurance-related regulatory and legislative landscape surrounding ridesharing services, including a **FREE CSG eCademy webcast** June 23.

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### **Rideshare Companies: Insurance and Regulatory Issues for States**

CSG eCademy Webcast  
Tuesday, June 23, 2 p.m. EDT  
**REGISTER HERE**

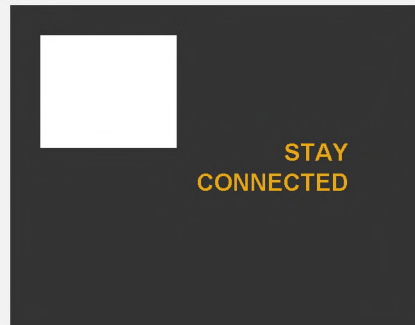
### **Performance-Based Budgeting in the SLC States**

Presented by CSG South/SLC  
Thursday, June 25, 2 p.m. EDT  
**REGISTER HERE**

**See Full Calendar**

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