

**March 10, 2016**

**Re: South Carolina Named Innovation Leader in CTA's 2016 Innovation Scorecard**

Dear Governor Haley:

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA)<sup>™</sup>, formerly the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)<sup>®</sup>, has named South Carolina a **2016 Innovation Leader** in our annual Innovation Scorecard.

The 2016 edition of the Scorecard grades all 50 states and the District of Columbia on ten criteria essential to job creation, economic growth, and the success of entrepreneurs and small businesses. South Carolina earned its ranking for:

- Right-to-work legislation that protects workers' choices and attracts new businesses
- A law that allows ridesharing services to operate statewide
- Modestly business-friendly tax policies
- Modest job and small business growth
- Average Internet speeds greater than 10,000 kbps
- More than 138,000 technology workers [2014]
- \$48 million in venture capital investment in 2015
- 14.6 college degrees granted in science and engineering subjects for every 1,000 young people [2011]
- An e-waste recycling law that extends responsibilities to manufacturers

Unless states create an innovation-friendly environment, they risk turning valuable talent and economic growth away — or, worse, sending it overseas. We hope the Innovation Scorecard leads states to enact policies that drive innovation and create good jobs. We take full responsibility for any mistakes or shortcomings in the 2016 Scorecard, and welcome your feedback as we prepare the 2017 edition.

Sincerely,



Gary Shapiro  
President and CEO