

121 Preister Lane  
Aiken, SC 29803  
February 18, 2015

Governor Nikki Haley  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I have recently built a home in Aiken, having come from Boston. I love my new home and desire to support economic success in Aiken and in South Carolina in general.

In this light, I have been dismayed to find I cannot get high speed broadband Internet service at my new home, though I am only 5 miles from downtown Aiken. At my Boston home, 20 miles from downtown, broadband Internet allows many people in my town to create businesses out of their homes, helping to build a successful local economy. This does not seem possible outside of city centers in South Carolina, a problem shared by many rural areas of the U.S..

In the current era, high speed broadband Internet access is as much a vital piece of infrastructure for a successful economy as electricity, roads, and telephones, and is increasingly important for education and health care. Mobile hotspots are too expensive and too limited in capacity to be a satisfactory substitute.

I know the Governor's office has limited ability to influence the large Internet providers. I also know that their business model does not favor providing access in poor or rural areas. I also understand that South Carolina has erected barriers to alternative broadband providers, such as municipalities and electric power companies.

But I am hopeful that the bully pulpit of the Governor's office may have some success at promoting the development of such vital infrastructure throughout

South Carolina, thereby promoting the economic  
success of the entire state.

With respect,  
Kathleen McCullough