

December 4, 2015

Dear Honorable Nikki R. Haley,

My name is Eutauqua Grooms and my husband Tim Grooms is an employee at Century Aluminum Mt. Holly in Goose Creek, SC. Century Aluminum's last day open will be December 31, 2015 if an agreement with the power contract is not met between them and Santee Cooper. I am writing to ask for help in saving my husband's job, as well as, 600+ other employees.

Century Aluminum Mt Holly is the newest and most efficient smelter in the U.S., but has a higher power cost compared to all other smelters in the U.S. I have read that Santee Cooper and our state government have commented that Century's problem is the low prices of aluminum, but how can they say that when Century's power cost to Santee Cooper is higher than any other smelter in the U.S. Century currently receives 75% of their power from an out of state company and 25% from Santee Cooper.

I keep hearing, repeatedly, that Santee Cooper nor you can agree to the proposal from Century because it would be unfair to other customers. The proposal would allow Century to get 100% of their power from an out of state company with the power being transmitted via Santee Cooper's lines. That would reduce Century's fees to Santee Cooper from approximately 46 million to approximately 16 million per year which would allow Century to remain open and allow 600+ employees to keep their jobs. Santee Cooper and you have said that the proposal would be unfair to other customers because the loss of income for Santee Cooper would have to be picked up by the customers. So my questions is.....if the plant completely closes down and Santee Cooper loses all of the income from Century instead of just part, who will pick up the cost of their loss?

One of your goals as Governor of SC has been to improve the state of SC. You worked very hard to get Volvo to come to SC to help improve our economy and bring more jobs to SC. Now, you are going to allow another big company to go out of business. How is that helping SC's economy? If Century closes there will be 600+ people on unemployment. Those people that are out of work will not be able to afford to put money back into our local businesses to help the economy and many will probably end up with their homes being foreclosed. This will be very bad for SC's economy. If I were Volvo or any other large company in SC I would be concerned by watching this action from our government. They can clearly see that their government won't back them in times of need. How is it that Kentucky's government and New York's government

can step in and help save smelters in their state, but SC won't do the same? Why? Months ago when Santee Cooper and Century were trying to begin their talks, I was told that you made a comment to Century employees that they wouldn't lose their jobs over a power contract which is exactly what is happening.

I have always been taught that monopolizing anything in the U.S. is wrong and against the law. In my eyes, Santee Cooper is monopolizing right now. Century has the choice to either agree with Santee Cooper's terms or shut down. That is monopolizing.

My husband provides our insurance through Century Aluminum. If he loses his job, I will have to purchase insurance for us through the company where I work which is a lot higher cost with less coverage. So we will lose my husband's salary and it will cost me almost two weeks of my pay to cover us for medical, dental, vision, and life insurance.

The power contract with the out of state company ends on December 11, 2015 and the contract with Santee Cooper ends on December 31, 2015. If Santee Cooper and Century Aluminum don't reach an agreement by December 11, 2015 then Century Aluminum won't be renewing their contract with the out of state company; therefore, Century will start the process of shutting down at that point. PLEASE DO NOT DISREGARD THIS LETTER AND PUT IT TO THE SIDE. WE NEED HELP BY DECEMBER 11, 2015!!

If you are willing to help us, please contact Century Aluminum quickly. If you have any advice for me to help me save this company, please contact me.

My contact information:

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Thank you,


Eutauqua Grooms