

To the Honorable Governor Nikki Haley,

I would like to extend my gratitude for your service to our state of South Carolina in being our governor over the past five years. Our state has seen large amounts of growth in various fields ranging from new business to unemployment to task forces aimed at reducing domestic violence in South Carolina. However, there are always areas that could use a little improvement in our state systems.

My family owns and operates an auto garage here in Greenville, so naturally cars are a big part of our day-to-day lives. In the recent months and years, we have been able to add on other services to our business and continue old ones that have been more like hobbies in the past. Some of these include buying and selling used cars as well as towing for private customers and for the Highway Patrol. Often times, cars that enter our work bays are in need of repair due to damage inflicted by potholes in our roads. Within the past six to eight months, we have seen several cars come in with damage to multiple tires and wheels from such incidents. In recent elections, there have been ideas presented on ballots aimed at raising the necessary funds to fix road issues for our area. One such idea in the November 2014 election was for a penny sales tax increase (<http://www.governorhaley.com/2014/11/04/county-wants-to-raise-sales-tax/>); this was presented before the residents of Greenville County and quickly became a widely discussed topic, until it was voted down by the citizens. Another idea that has been brought up is to add a tax on gasoline to be designated for funding road repairs

(<http://www.governorhaley.com/2014/11/04/county-wants-to-raise-sales-tax/>). The idea of such a tax would have the best benefit for the cost if implemented on a statewide scale. Having the tax placed only on gasoline puts the cost for road repairs only on those individuals that use our roads, and prevents such taxation from affecting those that do not own cars or use our roads. It simply makes sense that those who use something should be willing to and responsible for paying for maintenance of that which they use.

Yet since the state government has been the ones to provide the infrastructure, including roads, there should be some responsibility for maintenance from the government as well. There have been several reports from various representatives that there are funds available for use in the state budget, yet they are being spent on areas that seem to be of less importance at the current time. I believe that the appropriation of the budget should be a process focussed on nearly all the time, as situations can and often do change constantly. Therefore, if there are sectors that often have excess funding or could perform at the same standard with less funds, this money should be allocated to other sectors or special projects that require a larger portion of funding from the state government.

This is simply my personal opinion on this topic, yet political progress often begins with discussion between citizens and their leaders. If there have been any other updates or ideas presented on solutions to this matter, I would be quite intrigued to hear about them. Thank you for your time, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Douglas Smith