

February 17, 2015

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Gov. Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton st.
Columbia, SC 29201

Governor Haley,

Executives from the main office of Urban Outfitters met with employees yesterday and informed us that they will be closing the Trenton South Carolina Distribution Center in June or July of this year. Reason stated was that the building owner was not going to renew the lease on the building which is up for renewal this year.

They told us that those of us that are in good standing with the company would receive a full weeks 40 hour pay check for every year they have been with the company, plus if you stay with them until the closing date they will give us \$1000 to send us on our way. WE were also offered a job at the Rino Nevada DC or the Pennsylvania DC if we are interested in re-locating to stay with the company.

Rumors started floating around about this last year and after the local newspaper wrote an article and the TV news stations got involved they had to start talking and told us that they do plan to shut down the Trenton operation and move it to the new location in PA. So here we go again our state is getting shot in the foot by another employer.

Next week I plan to put together a proposal and mail to you that would keep Urban Outfitters in South Carolina. It would call for them building a new building in Greenwood SC and start with several new lines of merchandise to help bring the Company more revenue to gain more profit, phase out other merchandise that we don't need to sell. There will be changes in the way we work as a company to be more efficient. WE will have to start with a new attitude beginning with myself as an example. If I can't change myself I can't become a positive influence on others!!

It looks like Edgefield is going to try and fight this move to keep Urban Outfitters in their County. They have started putting in water and sewer lines on the other side of the road and I've been told that there has been some land clearing going on near the building. It looks like they may be preping the land for another commercial building in hopes that Urban will build on that sight across the road.

I did try to talk with some Greenwood officials today to find out if there was any commercial land that could be preped or if they know of a sight that could be bought by the Company.

I went by the City and County Council Office and their Secretary sent me over to the Department of City and County Planning. Unfortunately Mr Hudson was not in his office today.

Governor Haley this would call for building a building that would employ up to a thousand employees. Do you remember the four hundred member call center that was moved to Columbia County Gerogia two years ago?

The question is would they want to build in Greenwood because of the distance they would have to travel with transporting the merchandise to get back to the interstate. They have to be close to the nearest air port. Another question is could UPS, Fedex, HDL build a joint mailing processing Hub at the Greenwood County Airport. Is this airport big enough to house that size of a building and can large plans land at this airport? We are all on the same team and the objective is to work together to get the merchandise where it needs to be.

If changes can be made it will have a positive effect on our community, State and Nation. We are rebuilding our state and Nation one job at a time. But this can't be accomplished without the help of you and the South Carolina Department of Commerce. What kind of incetive package can you and the Commerce Department put together to help Urban Outfitters build a new building? I'm sure Greenwood County Council would work to help get them started, Tax incentives, Free water for 5 years, etc? what ever it takes I'm sure Greenwood would bend over back wards to get those jobs in our county.

I love my home town Greenwood. I love my home state South Carolina. I have the best interest at heart when coming up with a winning solution to keeping these jobs in our state. You are working your rear end off to get these jobs built in our great state. It is very discouraging to know they are planning to pack up and walk away. I don't plan on staying with this company because I have other plans for my future, but I don't want our state to lose these jobs. I hope you will contact Urban Outfitters and Greenwood City and County planning Dept. and see what kind of plans can be made to keep ~~these~~ jobs in South Carolina. I want you to know I am also looking out for your interest as well. You are our Governor and you deserve credit for the accomplishments, you and your administration has worked so hard to build our economy. Thank you for your time and consideration. May God bless you and keep you in His Spirit.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Witt

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RMW/attachments

