

Walhalla Woman's Club
Affiliate of GFWC-SC and GFWC International
PO Box 496 Walhalla, SC 29691

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201

February 20, 2015

Dear Governor Haley,

First, thank you for your service to our state and nation. We are proud to live in South Carolina and desire that our "Great day" moves forward toward a "Great future."

As a civic club keenly active in local, state and national issues, the Walhalla Woman's Club has worked for 37 years to help our community and its people. A very diverse group, we have worked on projects such as our annual college scholarship, securing and maintaining a shelter for victims of domestic violence, and providing service dogs for disabled US Veterans.

An issue that concerns us greatly now is the condition of roads and bridges in South Carolina. Throughout our state, we ride on roads that deteriorate daily and cross over and under bridges with diminishing confidence that they are sound. You inherited this critical issue. Please make it a part of your legacy to address it in a profound and meaningful way.

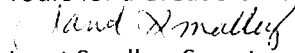
The condition of our roads costs South Carolina millions in lost investments. The state insurance fund pays out damages that would lessen or largely disappear if our roads were improved and maintained.

We urge you to support an increase in the gas tax. The reason is simple. It is a fee for use. Those who drive through our state, those who come for vacations, football weekends, conferences, and entertainment, will help pay for S.C. roads. Out-of-state trucking companies who use Interstates and secondary roads to deliver goods and services will pay. An increase in the gas tax spreads the cost of improving our highway system.

We support a gas tax increase without a reduction in the state income tax. Our state has already drastically cut funding in critical areas such as k-16 education and protective services. A reduction in revenue endangers our current and future economy and the health and safety of South Carolinians.

Please do the right thing. Move South Carolina forward. Better roads are a great place to start. And let's do it before we make national headlines for failing to address this issue.

Yours for a Great S.C. Future and on Behalf of the Walhalla Woman's Club and President, Jeanie Phillips


Janet Smalley, Secretary