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Date: 1/22/2016 11:06:34 AM
Subject: ChamberBuzz: Business Speaks Next Week!

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January 22, 2016

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Business Speaks 2016 is next Tuesday! State legislators, including the House and Senate majority and minority leaders, will be present to address pressing #scbiz issues and take questions from you, the business community. If infrastructure, business licensing reform or workforce development is on your legislative priority list this year, you won't want to miss this dynamic discussion at one of our most popular annual events. See the full agenda [here](#). Presented by Zeus.

- Click [HERE](#) to register
- [Submit a question](#) to be answered by our legislative panels
- Click through our [Facebook album](#) to see highlights from last year:

CHAMBER COVERAGE:

- **"I Agree with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce..."** –College of Charleston President Glenn McConnell on our [push](#) to **#FixSCRoads**
 - Greenville News: [Roads, education are top priorities](#)
 - Post and Courier: [Transportation, education vital to S.C. prosperity](#)
- **"The best way to lift South Carolinians up is education and workforce development,"**—Chamber President & CEO Ted Pitts
 - West of: [State Needs A \\$15 Per Hour Minimum Wage](#)
- **"The S.C. Chamber of Commerce has proposed that the legislature invest \$600 million a year in roads and bridges"**
 - Charleston Regional Business Journal: [Haley vows to veto roads plan that doesn't cut income tax, reform S.C. DOT](#)

#SCBIZ NEWS:

- Live 5 News: [Gov. Nikki Haley gives the State of the State Address](#)
- Post and Courier: [SC to delay state tax refunds to fight fraud](#)
- Oglethorpe Deakins: [DHS Issues New Regulations for Certain Highly Skilled Workers](#)
- GSA Business: [Charleston Harbor deepening project now awaits congressional approval](#)
- New York Times: [Case Could Widen Free-Speech Gap Between Unions](#)

January 26, 2016

[REGISTER](#) for a chance to help bring the Chamber's Competitiveness Agenda directly to elected leaders of the General Assembly. The event is January 26 at 4pm. Presented by [Zeus Industrial Products](#)

February 17-18, 2016

The deadline to book your hotel is January 27.

Join us for a discussion about the future of the South Carolina workforce! [Register](#) today!
Presented by [Bank of America](#).

March 22, 2016

Think your company is the safest place in South Carolina to work? [APPLY](#) now to be honored at this year's Safety Awards. **Deadline is February 1.**

May 11-13, 2016

Each year, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the SC SHRM State Council recognize the state's top Human Resources professional. [Award applications and nominations are due by March 11!](#)

February 1, 2016

We are partnering with NAM to showcase modern manufacturing in South Carolina and discuss workforce needs. [REGISTER](#) today for our event at Trident Tech!

SC Chamber staff attended the Senate Transportation Committee Wednesday as infrastructure discussions at the State House began. The committee, chaired by Senator Larry Grooms (R-Berkeley), unanimously recommended Senate confirmation of DOT Secretary Christy Hall, and quickly approved a resolution ([S.315](#)) to permanently allow the governor to appoint the transportation secretary. This is a positive first step in reforming the DOT, one of the priorities outlined in our [2016 Competitiveness Agenda](#).

The week ended with some good news as the Senate adjourned Thursday with Sen. Ray Cleary (R-Georgetown) holding the floor. Sen. Cleary told senators he wants to debate increasing money for roads first thing Tuesday.... [Tell our Senators to #fixscroads this year!](#)

Bills on our radar:

[H.3430](#) – Addressing Unsafe Used Tires

This legislation prohibits the sale of unsafe used tires, and defines “unsafe,” whereas currently, no regulations exist in South Carolina to help ensure that used tires are indeed safe. This is a safety issue for vehicle drivers, occupants and others on the road. In keeping with our commitment to sustaining a competitive environment for businesses to grow and prosper, while ensuring the safety of our citizens, the Chamber supports the passage of **H.3430** and is actively urging the Senate to do so with no further amendments...

[H. 4457](#) – Magistrate Jurisdiction

Sponsors: Rep. Huggins

Summary: Increases the civil jurisdiction of magistrates from \$7,500 to \$15,000.

Currently residing in the House Committee on Ways and Means

Chamber Position: Monitoring

[H. 4145](#) – Coordinating Council for Workforce Development

Sponsors: Reps. White, Clemmons, Goldfinch, Yow, W.J. McLeod, Horne, Murphy, Erickson, Duckworth, Gagnon, Gambrell, Hardwick, Jordan, Long, Lowe, Pitts, Sandifer, Thayer, Willis, Loftis, Alexander, Johnson and Whipper

Summary: Seeks to create a Coordinating Council for workforce development and to develop a comprehensive plan for workforce training.

Currently residing on the House floor and set to be given 2nd reading

Chamber Position: Support

#TOPTWEET

#TOPFACEBOOKPOST

#SPREADTHEWORD

#MemberNews

- **BlueCross BlueShield of SC** Foundation [donates \\$3.8 Million](#) to improve surgical safety and care in SC...
- **Trident Technical College** [launches](#) new Workforce Pathways Scholarship program...
- **Clemson University** programs [help](#) female, minority STEM students succeed...
- **Parker Poe** [names](#) Laura Locklair New Partner in Charleston...
- **API** [taps](#) Lowcountry native Bonnie Loomis to lead South Carolina Petroleum Council

#MemberEvents

- Four **Magnolia Gardens** storytellers and craftsmen [recreate life](#) on a Southern plantation with performances and demonstrations on Feb. 20. Free with Garden Admission.

Does your company have news or an event that you'd like featured in next week's Chamber Buzz? Send info to membernews@scchamber.net!

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