



HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the people of South Carolina, I respectfully submit for your consideration the inclusion and funding of two priority projects as part of your visionary infrastructure plan:

First, the Charleston 52 Harbor Deepening Project is a critical component to South Carolina's economic prosperity and needs a federal appropriation of \$180 million for completion. This is a great success story.

Deepening the harbor to 52 feet will make Charleston the deepest harbor on the East Coast, providing unlimited access for the larger Post-Panamax ships that were previously too large to utilize the Panama Canal. Companies like BMW, Michelin, Volvo, Daimler and Honda among others, are located in South Carolina in large part due to our world class port which serves more than 20,000 companies nationwide.

We have already set aside \$341 million ourselves, representing the state share of the total construction cost of \$521 million. Funding the federal share of \$180 million will complete the project. Construction is set to begin in the 4th quarter of 2017. Upon federal funding, project completion can be realized in about three years.

Second, while our Charleston port is strong and getting stronger, our roads and bridges leading to it and to our neighboring states need help. Some are worn and inadequate; others are dangerous. Through years of enduring storms, floods, breached dams, hurricanes, the recession, counter-productive federal policies and other factors, we have become adept at attempting to manage scarcity. Yet today, through the perseverance of our people and painful priorities, we are now positioned to experience a renaissance of innovation and growth which will create economic abundance not only for South Carolina but for the region.

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History shows that South Carolina has given much to the nation, and we intend to give more. But it is too much at this time to ask our people to bear this burden alone, heightening fears of increased gas taxes, delay, missed opportunities and decline. An appropriation of five billion dollars from your infrastructure plan will help us bridge this economic gap and ignite a prosperity which will return the investment many times over.

We thank you for your consideration of this request. Peggy and I hope to see you and yours again soon.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster", written in a cursive style.

Henry McMaster

HM/tw.ll