



June 10, 2020

The Honorable Tom Davis  
Chairman  
Senate Re-Open SC Business Liability Subcommittee  
PO Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Chairman Davis:

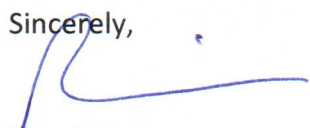
Employers in South Carolina, including SC Agribusinesses, are dealing with incredible challenges during these uncertain times. As our member organizations re-open and try to re-build their states' businesses, we have to adapt to an entirely new way of doing business. Be assured, our member organizations are doing their best to follow constantly changing guidance to keep the workplaces safe for their employees and customers. But while these businesses want to stay open and get back to more normal operations, they also risk being targets of unwarranted COVID-19-related lawsuits.

With so many hurdles at the present time, we are asking for your help to ease one of those hurdles by protecting employers from liability. Specifically, we ask that you pass legislation that is temporary and targeted to give immunity to employers from lawsuits that are related to COVID-19 claims so long as the employer has followed official public health guidance. Immunity should be granted from when the pandemic started – during the most uncertain times – and last through the end of the pandemic or December 31, 2021, whichever is later.

To be clear, we are not asking that those businesses with improper intentions be protected if they take no steps to protect their workplaces.

Unwarranted litigation will only serve to derail South Carolina's economic recovery. Instead, legislators can make a real difference in helping South Carolina employers get back on track and revive our economy by taking immediate action to pass liability protections for employers throughout our state.

Sincerely,

  
Ronald L. Summers  
CEO

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