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January 7, 2013

The Honorable Nikki Haley  
Governor  
State of South Carolina  
P.O. Box 12267  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of Palmetto Agribusiness Council (PABC), we would like to commend you for recognizing the critical need to fund our state's highways and bridges and for identifying possible funding mechanisms. We are very encouraged by the inclusion in your proposed state budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year of \$14.3 million of state general fund money for road improvements and your proposal to dedicate an additional \$77 million that may be available as well. We are aware that there are a variety of funding alternatives available. We do not endorse any one specific funding method, but we will encourage the General Assembly to consider all alternatives.

PABC represents some of the largest agribusiness employers in the state. Our mission is to sustain the economic viability of the state's largest business sector. Agribusiness (which includes agriculture, forestry and timber products) contributes \$34 billion to South Carolina's economy and provides 200,000 jobs to its citizens.

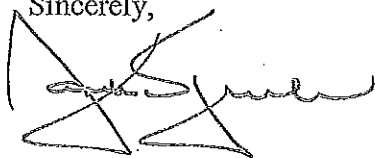
Agribusiness has always been dependent upon the "farm to market road" to get its products to consumers. Now that "road" includes miles of interstate highways that need expanding to accommodate the growth in traffic and rural bridges that are deficient and weight restricted. Our industry is changing and so are our strategies to increase productivity and profitability. We are identifying opportunities for new markets with exports through the Port of Charleston, but we must have a sound infrastructure to efficiently transport our products there. If we can grow the economic contribution of agribusiness in our rural areas, we can create jobs, generate revenue and increase per capita income in those communities.

Investing in our highways and bridges is a major part of building the economic capacity of our industry. We appreciate your wisdom and insight for seeing this major economic challenge to all of our state's industries and offering a viable solution.

PABC  
Highway Funding  
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Thank you for your service to our state and your continued support of agribusiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack W. Shuler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jack W. Shuler  
President

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