

November 19, 2009

News Release – For Immediate Release

Contact: Lachlan McIntosh (843) 452-3726 mcintosh.lachlan@gmail.com

Mullins McLeod Unveils Detailed Jobs Plan

Key Features – Tax Cuts, Small Business Assistance and Ending the Confederate Flag Debate

Columbia, SC -- Democratic Candidate for Governor Mullins McLeod today unveiled a detailed plan to create jobs in South Carolina through a combination of tax cuts, small business assistance and renewed focus on recruiting and creating green jobs.

His plan also calls for sending a clear signal to the world that South Carolina is ready to compete in the 21st Century economy by finally ending the Confederate Flag debate.

“My plan provides middle-class tax relief, it expands opportunities to help small businesses grow, it prepares South Carolina for the green economy, and it lays out a plan to change the culture of Columbia by outlawing special-interest money and implementing groundbreaking lobbying reform. The career politicians keep recycling the same old talking points when it comes to job creation, I have a real plan that will get South Carolinians working again,” said McLeod.

An Outline of the McLeod Plan for Jobs

Provide Middle-Class Tax Relief. Too many South Carolina families are hammered by a tough economy, even though they are working hard. As Governor, Mullins McLeod will challenge the Legislature to retool our tax code so that Middle-Class families get an immediate break on their state taxes.

Offer Assistance to Help Small Businesses Grow. Small businesses drive South Carolina’s economy, and are responsible for the lion’s share of our new jobs. Yet too often, the state’s current leadership focuses only on recruiting large industries. **That’s why as Governor, Mullins McLeod will**

- ✓ Provide a tax break to any business creating even a single job.
- ✓ Re-organize the Department of Commerce so it focuses on growing small businesses with the same focus it places on recruiting large corporations.
- ✓ Use technology to move all small business services provided by both state and county governments’ online, cutting red-tape and paperwork.
- ✓ Double the tax deduction for small business start up expenses.

Increase opportunities in rural South Carolina. Rural South Carolina remains a key piece of our state's economy. It's a mistake to think that more urbanized areas can succeed if rural South Carolina is left behind. **That's why as Governor, Mullins will**

- ✓ Expand the state's rural business fund.
- ✓ Expand broadband Internet access in rural areas.
- ✓ Rebuild failing infrastructures like roads and bridges, and plan for the future with high-speed rails.
- ✓ Promote local agriculture and launch a strong campaign encouraging South Carolinians to "buy local" to help our family farms.
- ✓ Provide additional job training opportunities in rural areas through the state's technical schools.
- ✓ Take full advantage of existing federal initiatives to revitalize rural communities.

Position South Carolina to Recruit Jobs in the Green Economy. The Green Economy will make up a large percentage of future American jobs. In the 1960s and 70s, South Carolina used its technical schools system to recruit national industry to our state. In the 21st Century, we need to do the same with green jobs. **That's why as Governor, Mullins McLeod will**

- ✓ Refocus the state's technical and vocational educational systems to emphasize worker training for new "green energy jobs," in order to attract cutting edge industry to South Carolina while making us more energy independent.
- ✓ Provide tax incentives to businesses that embrace green technology.
- ✓ Charge the Department of Commerce with recruiting green jobs and serving as an incubator for South Carolina companies interested in creating Green Jobs.
- ✓ Support efforts by our state's four-year colleges to pioneer new Green technologies.

Reform Government and the People Who Run It. For all the talk of reform and change over the last seven years, our state government is more gridlocked and divided than ever before – and special interests are still running the show. This interferes with the creation of good jobs. **To change the culture in Columbia, Mullins McLeod will**

- ✓ Outlaw the special interest PAC money that corporations and special interests use to buy influence.
- ✓ Set a personal example by pledging to forgo future runs for office, swearing to return to the private sector once his time in office is done.
- ✓ Require senior staff members of his administration to forswear any future employment as a lobbyist while he remains in the Governor's office.
- ✓ End the bickering between Legislature and Governor's office over where our state's jobless figure stands by bringing in outside accountants and non-government experts to produce honest figures – which will allow all sides to come together and focus on creating jobs to tackle our record high unemployment rate.
- ✓ Implement groundbreaking lobbying reform, including some of the strictest reporting requirements in the country.

Send a Clear Signal That South Carolina is Open For Business. Too often, when South Carolina finds itself in the national or international spotlight, it's for negative reasons. To ensure our long-term success in the 21st Century economy, Mullins McLeod will send a clear signal that South Carolina is ready to move past old divisions by removing the Confederate Flag from the Capitol Grounds and placing it in a museum.

"The Confederate Flag debate continues to hold our state back. We are not going to compete in a 21st Century economy by prolonging 19th Century arguments. It is time for us to send a clear and unambiguous signal to the rest of the country, and the entire world, that South Carolina is better than what people see on the news, and that we are ready to make progress. By agreeing to move past this old argument once and for all, we will be telling the world that South Carolina is ready to lead again," McLeod said.

###