



Mark Sanford
Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Joe E. Taylor, Jr.
Secretary

February 2, 2010

The Honorable James H. Harrison
South Carolina House of Representatives
512 Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Representative Harrison,

It has been a few months since Boeing officially announced the new final assembly plant and thousands of new jobs for South Carolina, yet the news is still reverberating across the nation and the world, reinforcing that South Carolina is a preferred location for world-class businesses to operate.

Now is the time to build on this momentum by further enhancing our state's business climate. Moving workers' compensation reform and tort reform forward now would strengthen our business environment and thus increase our competitiveness.

While numerous factors influence a company's location decision, we have found that fundamental issues like tort laws and workers' compensation play a key role in *every* location decision.

We can attract other, major economic development investment from companies such as Boeing by creating a more predictable and stable litigation environment with low and fair workers' compensation rates, by protecting businesses from frivolous lawsuits, and by bringing common sense back to our courtrooms. Taking these steps will equate to more business for South Carolina and more jobs for our citizens.

For the benefit of our existing businesses and to enhance the prospect for new ones, I urge you to support House Bill 3489 during the 2010 legislative session. In light of the current state budget situation, there is no better time to strengthen our state's business climate using options that do not impact the General Fund.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe E. Taylor, Jr.", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Joe E. Taylor, Jr.

JET/vw

cc: The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.