

2015

COMPETITIVENESS AGENDA

The business community's legislative priorities



SOUTH
CAROLINA
CHAMBER
Of
COMMERCE

IMPROVING SOUTH CAROLINA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

South Carolina public policy leaders must develop a comprehensive, sustainable and recurring funding plan for infrastructure. With the strong link between infrastructure, safety, job creation and economic development, funding must be a top priority in 2015. Investing in infrastructure is a core function of government. Building for the future will drive economic growth and job creation.

The South Carolina Chamber supports a comprehensive, sustainable and recurring funding solution, developed together and supported by the executive and legislative branches, for the state's roads and bridges, using the priority system in place under the SC Department of Transportation for interstate expansion and improvement, secondary road maintenance and bridge repair.




SOUTH CAROLINA
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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IMPROVING THE JOBS PIPELINE

As South Carolina continues to recover from the economic downturn, a manufacturing renaissance has led the way for new job announcements. Couple that with many experienced workers on the verge of retirement, and South Carolina is faced with a shortage of critical needs workers. Critical needs jobs are those that require more education than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. These post-secondary education or training requirements can include associate's degrees, vocational certificates, significant on-the-job training, previous work experience and/or some college. According to the SC Department of Employment and Workforce, critical needs jobs account for 54% of the workforce while only 28% of people have the necessary skills to fill these jobs, creating a shortage of workers.

The South Carolina Chamber supports an increased focus on programs to develop a skilled workforce to support existing and new business in South Carolina.

IMPROVING SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina must continue to improve its business climate to create a competitive global environment. Tax reform, education, health care costs, energy and environmental issues, federal matters and other key issues must be addressed to encourage expanded economic development opportunities.

