

Sherri

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Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 12:28 PM
To: Sherri
Subject: MBREDC | May 2019 Newsletter



MBREDC E-Newsletter



**Santee Cooper Plays an Important Part to Economic
Development in South Carolina**

First, let's reiterate that Santee Cooper recognizes and accepts responsibility for our current situation following the failure of the V.C. Summer project. Changes are demanded and will be implemented. That's clear. What's also clear is just how much so-called "policy" or "citizen" groups have misinformed the public about Santee Cooper as a utility and as an integral partner in economic development all across South Carolina.

Claims have been promoted from those whose views are ideologically different. Let's set the record straight, with **FACTS**.

Ideology: Everyone is entitled to his or her own view on the role of government. Some folks believe that no government agency should have any part in recruiting industry, particularly when it comes to providing incentives. The fact is, economic development is highly competitive nationally, and South Carolina would lose out on key industries without the help of Santee Cooper, a state agency since 1934, because we provide additional incentives and support to assist the South Carolina Department of Commerce and other key state, regional and local organizations. This includes programs to help expand industries already here. When Santee Cooper sales increase through economic development efforts, all customers benefit.

FACT: Economic development is a specific duty identified as part of Santee Cooper's statutory responsibility by the state laws that govern us.

Financial: Some are falsely claiming that our current debt should dictate that we stop financially supporting economic development activity. They claim we are not financially able to continue providing loans and grants to local groups, electric cooperatives, or others to help attract industry and jobs.

FACT: Our debt-to-equity ratio is in line with other public power utilities and has no impact on our ability to continue supporting economic development. Economic development support is part of our budget, and we recover our investments through repayment of the loans we make, as well as through energy sales to the industries these incentives attract. We support efforts that others either can't or won't, and we are able to effectively partner with local governments, regional economic development entities, electric cooperatives, and the Department of Commerce. Our incentives, loans, and real estate acquisitions are important to the state's growth.

History: Our efforts have helped secure over \$15 billion in capital investment and over 80,000 new jobs for the people of South Carolina.

To read more about Santee Cooper [Click Here](#)

Spring Social at the Myrtle Beach Pelicans

Thank you to those that were able to attend the Spring Social at the Myrtle Beach Pelicans on April 25th. We had a great turnout and the night was enjoyed by all with networking, food, drinks and of course some baseball! Thank you to our sponsor [G3 Engineering](#) for making events like this and others possible for our partners.





CEO Spotlight Panel

Thank you to those that joined us for the CEO Spotlight Panel lunch on May 16th. Our panel consisted of Bruce Bailey, CEO of Tidelands Health, Sandy Davis, CEO of the MBREDC, Mike Hagg, CEO of HTC, Ebbie Phillips, CEO of Tyson Signs, and Fred Richardson, CEO of Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority. We thank the panelist for participating in this event and for Rodney Berry, Director of Economic Development for Congressman Tom Rice. We had 100 guests join us for networking and lunch, catered by [Tropical Smoothie Cafe](#). Thank you to [Horry Georgetown Technical College](#) for letting us host the event at your facility.



'Time has come' for a 21st Century Infrastructure System

Rebuilding and modernizing America's infrastructure is a major priority for the business community.

"This year, we are calling on our lawmakers to take bipartisan action on a meaningful infrastructure package now," said U.S. Chamber and CEO Tom Donohue in February at the America's Infrastructure: Time to Invest event.

In the committee's first hearing on infrastructure since 2015, Donohue outlined the business case for Congress to stop talking and take action to rebuild our infrastructure.

"Congress must come to grips with the fact that most of this system was built 60-150 years ago," Donohue said. "The Chamber believes the time has come to enact a federal infrastructure modernization plan to provide every American a 21st century system."

The costs of inaction for American businesses, workers, and families are piling up.

"According to the American Transportation Research Institute, congestion on the Interstate highway System alone cost the trucking industry nearly \$74.5 billion in 2016 and wasted more than 1.2 billion hours," Donohue explained. In addition, congestion and vehicle repairs due to poor roads cost the average commuter over \$1,500, he added.

The Q1 2019 MetLife & U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index found a majority of small businesses consider roads and bridges as critical to their success. But 62% said local roads and bridges are in average, poor, or very poor conditions, and 52% said the same about the state of U.S. highways.

"The Index results add to a mountain of evidence that America's infrastructure isn't meeting the demands of today's business owners and today's economy," said Neil Bradley, U.S. Chamber Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer, about the findings. "This should be a wake-up call to leaders in Washington: It's time to invest in modernizing our nation's infrastructure."

After laying out a proactive course of action, Donohue cautioned lawmakers from reversing 2017's historic tax reforms to pay for infrastructure, calling it a "non-starter for the business community and for many in Congress."

Instead, Donohue argued, "we need to build upon tax reform by significantly increasing infrastructure investment to support long-term economic growth and to compete globally."

To read more [Click Here](#)



We want to let our readers learn more about our partners and their businesses/organizations in Horry County. Email us so we can set up a time to stop by to visit and highlight your company.

Email us at ssteele@mbredc.org



Instagram Facebook

Upcoming Events



MBREDC Event | Technology



Thursday, June 20th
Dave & Buster's
Sponsored by [Archetype SC](#)
***Details coming soon**

Save the Date Calendar 2019

*Dates and event topics are tentative and subject to change
*The events below are for partners and members of the MBREDC



SAVE
The
DATE | 2019

FEBRUARY 13TH Women in Business

MARCH 21ST M2M Networking

APRIL 25TH Pelicans Baseball Social

MAY 17TH CEO Spotlight Breakfast

JUNE 20TH Technology Event

AUGUST 15TH Economic Development Panel

SEPTEMBER 12TH CEO Spotlight Breakfast

OCTOBER 17TH Oyster Roast Social

JANUARY 2020 Annual Meeting

**Dates and events are tentative and subject to change.*

MYRTLE BEACH
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

If you would like to receive updates, e-newsletters, and invites to events please contact us at ssteele@mbredc.org or 843.347.4604



Member News

[CCU's First Doctoral Candidate Tells CCU Graduates: 'The World Needs Us'](#)

[State Unemployment Rate for April](#)

[Tidelands Health to Serve as Official Health Care System for Carolina
Country Music Festival](#)

[TD Bank Survey Results from Small Business Owners](#)

[Thomas & Hutton Welcome New Intern](#)

[How Much are Businesses Spending on Cyber Security](#)

["Asphalt Works! " Workforce Development Campaign Launches](#)

[Three Tidelands Health Nurses Earn Palmetto Gold Awards](#)

[Economy Expected to Slow Through Remainder of 2019](#)

If you are a MBREDC member and have news to share we would love to hear it! Please send link to Ssteel@mbredc.org

Partner Spotlight



This month we highlight MBREDC partner [Little River Chamber of Commerce](#)

Little River residents enjoy slower, more serene communities, less traffic, and an escape from the hustle and bustle of the greater Grand Strand. Yet all the amenities of a larger metropolitan area are a short drive from our peaceful town. Their primary objective is to make the area an even better place to live, work and play. Part of the Chamber's mission is to be a community leader and assist in the economic development of the region. They do that through service, innovation, community leadership and collaboration.

This weekend, May 18-19th is the 38th Annual World Famous Blue Crab Festival. Located at the Historic Little River Waterfront, the World Famous Blue Crab Festival is one of the largest festivals in the Southeast with many visitors planning their vacation around this landmark event. The festival features live beach music, a kids zone, and approximately 300 arts and crafts, specialty food, and business expo vendors.

New & Renewing Partners

New Partners

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MBREDC Chairman's Partners





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