

John and Sunnie would love to be here today, but Sunnie is working on the state budget and also an issue at committee this morning. John was going to come and present, but he has a major case of the flu. So, I am filling in for them to let you know what they are doing to on your behalf at the State House. They apologize for not being here with you today.

So, this is their report.

For the entire year so far, the State House has been inundated with two issues:

- Whether to sell, manage or reform **Santee Cooper**, which left its customers on the hook for billions of dollars of unfinished construction of its nuclear facility; and,
- **Education Reform**, which took up eight weeks of the Senate's time where no other bills were considered during that time

These issues literally have brought the State House almost to halt; and, The State House has not been this bogged down since the video poker debate in the mid 1990s.

Looking ahead and as a reminder, this is the second year of a two-year session, so, as of May 14<sup>th</sup>, any bill that has not passed the Legislature will be dead. Meaning, *that* bill would have to go through the entire legislative process beginning in January 2021.

Here are some of the issues John and Sunnie are working on our behalf:

- **\$0 Contributions at Tier one** and the **hockey stick**, which is the extraordinary punitive jump between tiers 12 and 13. John and Sunnie continue pushing that issue forward in hopes of getting real traction in preparation for next year.
- **Workforce:** Whether helping to prepare students for manufacturing jobs or working with the technical colleges on focus areas that are needed, such as CDL drivers, construction, nursing or other technical areas, John and Sunnie are in the middle of it to add to that skilled pipeline.
- **High School Diplomas:** With currently 450,000 adults in South Carolina without a high school diploma (22 years and older), John and Sunnie are working with the state to provide a pathway for many of those people to receive a South Carolina high school diploma.
- **High Speed Rural Internet Broadband:** Access. Access is key, whether to high quality education for our rural children or access to high quality healthcare for our rural seniors, children and the sick, it is important that the state, Internet providers and other stakeholders work together to increase this access. Healthcare and education are not alone. Even economic development lags in these areas. So, Sunnie and John are involved in the large conversation on how to better provide high speed rural internet broadband to the state.

There are many other issues at the State House, including those that John and Sunnie play defense for us, but this should give you a flavor of how they work for us each and every day at the South Carolina State House.

Questions? Or issues you want brought up?