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February 27, 2018

**RE: Flood Mitigation in Senate District 41**

Dear Sir/Madame:

If you are receiving this letter, then you or someone on your behalf has requested to be kept apprised of ongoing flood mitigation efforts in my senate district, which is District 41. Since October, I have been working hard to get all interested parties and agencies in the same room together so that we can plot a course forward. At long last, and on March 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. we will have all interested governmental agencies and parties in the same room. The meeting will occur in the West Ashley High School cafeteria.

The goal is to divide citizens into different groups based on where they live within District 41. Officials from the cities, towns, public service districts and Charleston County will be on hand as well as SCDOT officials and federal officials. Others outside of District 41 are welcome to attend to gather information, but in an effort to keep the meeting manageable, local agencies and officials outside of District 41 may not be present. District 41 includes parts of James Island, John's Island, most of West Ashley and a small sliver of North Charleston. This meeting does not include Dorchester County residents within District 41 but any flood victims in District 41 in Dorchester are encouraged to contact me so that I may assist you in Dorchester as well.

This event is intended to be productive, and to that end let me state in advance that I have learned of other meetings where the frustrations of residents bubbled up causing disruption. What we are planning is not a venting session. Instead, it is intended to be a hands-on meeting where you may ask questions of your officials and start paperwork you may need to file if you have not done so already.

Inasmuch as I am a state official and not a local or federal official, the only state agency which may be in a position to help my constituents with flooding or safety issues is SCDOT. At my request, DOT officials have already cleaned all ditches and checked all flood valves for the properties which were reported to me to require maintenance. If you believe you have a ditch or flood valve issue or something easily fixed by the Department of Transportation, they will be on hand to take your information. Of course, they can only work on state maintained right of ways and not areas maintained by local governments. Thankfully the Cities of Charleston and North Charleston will bring their maintenance officials to the meeting and I will be asking other agencies with the ability to maintain ditches and right of ways to bring staff members who can address your individual concerns about maintenance issues if they are available.

Most importantly, Senator Tim Scott's office has agreed to be a conduit for those who need better attention from FEMA. Any of you who have reached the 51% threshold and have been denied a building permit to repair without bringing the property to code should be very interested in this meeting. In order to facilitate a FEMA review, please bring all claim documents/numbers that you have thus far with you. Please also bring any notices by building officials that your property must be brought to code. Senator Scott's office will work with higher level FEMA officials in Atlanta to hopefully speed your recovery process or at least get you some answers. Or, if you believe your claims adjuster has treated you unfairly, we would like to have that information as well so that Senator Scott's office can inquire about your claim with FEMA.

I am extremely hopeful to have many elected officials on hand in addition to representatives from all of the agencies aforementioned. I think having us all in the same room together will lead us to the best possible outcome.

I look forward to seeing you all there. Please spread the word.

Sincerely,



Sandy Senn  
Senate District 41

cc: U.S. Senator Tim Scott  
U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham  
Congressman Mark Sanford  
Tim Henderson, Chief Engineer, SCDOT  
Mayor John Tecklenburg and City Council Members in District 41  
Mayor Keith Summey and City Council Members in District 41  
Mayor Bill Woolsey and all Town Council Members in District 41  
Chairman Vic Rawl and all County Council Members in District 41  
James Island Public Service District Commission  
St. Andrews Public Service District Commission