



The SC Small Business Chamber of Commerce

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February 6, 2010

The Honorable Kenny Bingham, Chairman
Employment Security Commission Ad Hoc Study Committee
518 Blatt Building
Columbia, SC

Dear Chairman Bingham:

Thank you for your leadership in watching out for small business interests as the Legislature addresses structural and policy changes at the Employment Security Commission and measures to be taken to resolve the crisis in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

We certainly support efforts to insure that unemployment benefits are reserved for deserving workers and that the system rewards businesses under using the system while setting rates more equitably for those that heavily use the system.

As we have stated previously regarding the State's need to repay loans to the Federal government, any special contributions required by businesses to this effort should be proportional to the past utilization of the system by those businesses. Small businesses insist on being treated fairly on this point.

Finally, the matter of temporary workers and unemployment benefits is of concern to us. Gaming the system is commonplace and contributes to higher unemployment insurance for staffing agencies and additional costs to all businesses.

Please consider incorporating the following language in future legislation on this issue.

SECTION 1. Section 41-35-110(3) of the 1976 Code is amended by adding a new lettered subitem to read: "() No claimant shall be eligible to receive benefits or waiting period credit following the completion of a temporary work assignment unless the claimant shows that he informed the temporary employment agency that provided the assignment of the assignment's completion, maintains on going weekly contact with agency until reassigned, and that the agency has not provided a subsequent assignment for which the claimant's prior training or experience shows him to be fitted or qualified."

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Frank Knapp, Jr.
President & CEO