

A country in need of some fixin'

There's not a lot of reason to spend time on all the things that are very upside down and inside out, and there do not seem to be many, if any, solutions that are forthcoming. If anyone does not recognize our sorry state of affairs, then they are not paying attention or are being led down the primrose path by CNN. So, let's get to it:

- The White House - There should be signs that read, "Danger Zone Ahead." The self-proclaimed "Uniter" has become the Divider-In-Chief! Divide And Conquer is the motto. We all know which group of people he likes to split out around voting time. About time they awakened because they're being had.

He raises his feeble voice as his socialist-leaning plans get mocked and shot down. His solution, as his approval numbers sink, is to raise his feeble voice, apparently to emphasize his apparent anger. And, as for his back-up, even worse. Can't think on her feet, is irritating and can't seem to grasp her job. Her aides are quitting.

- The Biden Presidency - You can look at his first year this way. He was standing on second base and promptly stole first base. Are we in trouble? Yep! Biden leadership? Nope!

- Inclusion - Here's one way to look at it. It's the delusion of collusion leading to confusion.

- Inflation - Our most severe issue, but many more right behind. We're at seven percent, the highest in 40 years. Way to go, Joe! His BBB Plan, which thankfully got shot down, would have made it worse. Not a business mind in the bunch. His solution, now, is to travel more to tell people about his plans. Joe, please get into solution space, as we don't want to hear about your stinking plans. We are a country in trouble.

- Unemployment - Artificially low to keep the number looking good. Labor participation is low, which distorts the number. We are 4 million jobs fewer than in 2019. Fact! Too many rules.

- New York City - One of most serious problems is crime, which is out of control all over the country. Totally out of control. The Mayor of New York City announces, on live TV, that he is afraid to ride the subway because of the crime rate. Here's a dumb idea: do something about it! Crime is killing your city. But, as I keep saying, over and over again, and this is national, if the penalty was severe enough, the crime rate would drop like a rock. You would think

crime was a business, and they don't want to disturb the business model.

- Voting - Democrats are already crying that the 2022 midterm election will be unfair, and the results unreliable. Too many states are reforming voting laws to prevent the problems identified with the 2020 election, and there was a laundry list of problems. The states are restructuring their voting laws to make elections legal and fair. No more of these 11th hour rule changes. Something wrong with that? Raphael Warnok D-Ga., has gone so far as to call Republicans un-American. Let's hear that "Uniter" speech again.

- Climate Change - A topic that is based on over-hyped, inaccurate measurements, over-stated as per actual historical change. It is over-politicized and an unnecessary money drain. If China, India and Russia are not playing this game and are actually building more coal facilities, gains will be minimal, at best.

- Ukraine and Taiwan - Russia has 100,000 troops along the Ukraine border, and China has stated their position on Taiwan. What will Joe do should there be an incident? The over/under betting is 2:1 in favor of a red-line-in-the-sand moment. We should get out ahead of this with firmly stated economic remedies that will occur if necessary.

- China - Speaking of China, they are focused on the proverbial, "Who's Number One?" Here's a quote that sums it up: "China is real, and they're eating our lunch, and believe this, in an hour they'll be hungry again!" They see an opportunity, and they're right on it. We regulate it to death, woke it, unionize it and inclusion it to mediocrity. They focus on solutions.

- Supply Chain Management - Serious problems persist and are growing. We "Rules" ourselves into the mess. Leadership! Are you kidding me? Buttigieg is way in over his head. Inclusion over experience, the Biden method.

Let's look at it with an equation - Lack of American factories + consumer demand + over-regulation + labor shortages + Omicron + backlog + poorly managed infrastructure + Fewer truck drivers + Poor management = poor delivery + inventory shortages + inflation + frustration. But, bet this, sooner or later racism will be the cause. Always the Democrats go-to card.

-Robert Patrick

The State Capitol Report

By Rep. Anne Parks
HOUSE FLOOR REVIEW
January 12-20, 2022

The House amended, and then returned to the Senate S. 865, legislation to adopt the 2020 US Census results and establish the election district boundaries for each member of the United States House of Representatives from South Carolina.

The House nonconcurred with Senate amendments for S. 525, a bill that updates the solid waste laws to include the regulation of advanced recycling. The Senate added language concerning the disposal of solar panels and similar waste and insisted upon its amendments. As a result, the House appointed Reps. Hiott, Burns and Atkinson for conference committee.

After a conference committee resolved issues between the House and Senate, the free conference report on S. 525, a bill dealing with updates to the solid waste laws to include the regulation of advanced recycling, was adopted. The bill outlines that "advanced recycling" means manufacturing processes that convert post-use polymers and recovered feedstocks into basic hydrocarbon raw materials, feedstocks, chemicals, waxes and other products. The bill includes that DHEC require these companies, new to the state, prior to being issued a permit, to provide financial responsibility in the form of a surety bond for five years. This requirement will expire five years from the effective date.

The bill states that DHEC must provide a report every year to the General Assembly regarding DHEC's analysis of the advanced recycling facility industry and its recommendation as to the industry's record in this state or elsewhere. The report must also include, but not be limited to, the industry's costs of clean up, environmental remediation, firefighting, ground water or surface water contamination, private property contamination, public health impacts, and displacement and relocation of affected persons, and any other reasonably foreseeable costs associated with the operation, management, or abandonment of any pyrolysis and gasification facilities.


In addition, beginning July 2022, DHEC is required to provide regulations for the handling of outdated solar panels and batteries and the decommissioning of solar projects in excess of 13 acres. The department must require, as part of a new application or an application pending on

July 1, 2022, local approval of a site plan for a solar farm in excess of 13 acres, that an owner, lessee or developer of real property upon which the site is situated must submit to the department a nonbinding plan to manage and dispose of end-of-life photovoltaic modules and energy storage system batteries and decommission solar energy equipment, facilities or devices.

The House gave third reading and sent to the Senate H. 3055, a bill that cleans up language and provides for technical changes in the law for the Department of Natural Resources. These changes are as a result of the Legislative Oversight Committee's review of the Department. The changes include, but are not limited to, updating names of the division departments as a result of the department's name change; updating the department's name on enforcement officers' badges; deleting language regarding enforcement officers' requirement for bond; and updating boundary description for the Wildlife Sanctuary at Charleston Harbor by simply deleting old references to location descriptions and replacing them with GPS coordinates.

The House approved and sent the Senate H. 4815, a joint resolution suspending the statutorily mandated sweep of any unused State Health Plan health insurance claim funds to the South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The suspension allows the Public Employee Benefit Authority to retain these funds in the state's employee health insurance program and continue to use them to address the increase in claims that PEBA is experiencing following the delays in scheduling elective surgeries caused by COVID-19 shutdowns. The amount that would be swept is \$92 million. The OPEB trust fund was created in 2008 and currently has a balance of \$1 billion.

If you have a comment or opinion concerning the matters discussed in this report, or if I may be of assistance to you at any time, please feel free to call my legislative office in Columbia at 803-734-3069 or 864-223-3193 or 864-852-2232 in McCormick or write Post Office Box 181, Greenwood, SC 29648. If you would like any additional information on these bills, or any other legislation under consideration by the General Assembly, feel free to visit our website at www.scstatehouse.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the House of Representatives.



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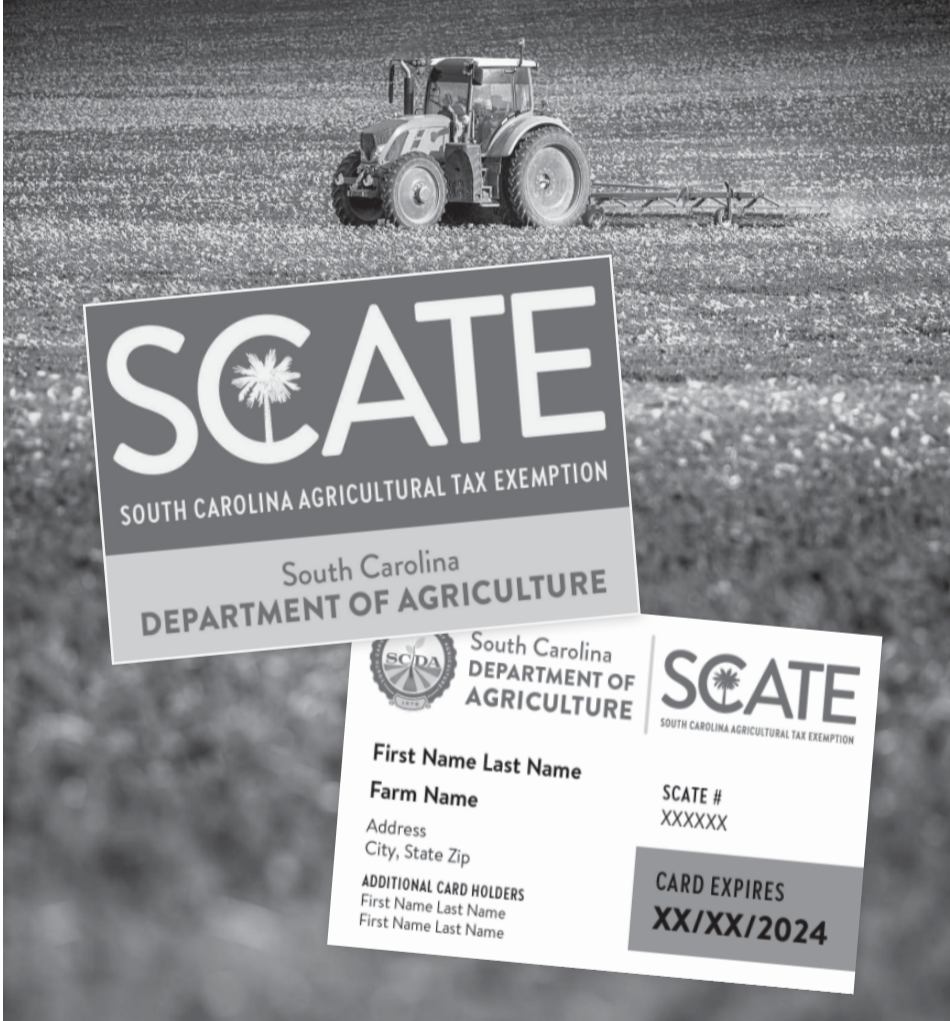
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