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March 24, 2020

The Honorable Henry D. McMaster
Governor of South Carolina
State House
1100 Gervais St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster,

First, let me express my sincere gratitude for what you are doing to protect our citizens from the effects of COVID-19. Only through decisive and direct action will we minimize the personal and financial impacts on our citizens from this health crisis. Please know you have my full support in these efforts.

I write today to specifically speak to a request you received from the South Carolina Association of Counties related to first responder protection and testing. As you know, my County of Florence has already suffered our first death from COVID-19. Our first responders are working diligently to mitigate further impacts on our community.

It is my hope and my personal request that through your leadership and Director Toomey's efforts, you are able to within in the law grant my County of Florence's and the South Carolina Association of County's requests.

I know you have the same respect and admiration for our first responders as I do, and it is incumbent on us, as leaders of our State, to ensure they have the proper resources and protections necessary to protect themselves. If not, they will not be able to protect us.

I stand with you.

With deep regard,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. K. Leatherman, Sr.", with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.

Cc: The Honorable Willard Dorriety, Jr.
Chairman, Florence County Council

Mr. Rick Toomey
Director, SCDHEC

Mr. Tim Winslow
Executive Director, SCAC