



P.O. BOX 11619
Columbia, S.C. 29211

SENATOR JOHN COURSON
RICHLAND COUNTY (DISTRICT 20)

Monday February 9, 1998

OFFICE (803) 254-5661
HOME (803) 256-7853

Joseph S. Murray, III
Regional Director, State Government
R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.
401 N. Main Street
Winson Salem, NC 27101-3818

500
CP + REL

Dear Mr. Murray:

You are one of South Carolina's best known and most respected leaders. For that reason, I wanted to brief you personally on a recent decision I have made. After careful consideration, I have decided to offer as a candidate for Comptroller General of South Carolina. There are several factors that led me to make this decision:

First of all, Comptroller General Earle Morris, a respected public servant, recently announced that he will not seek another term. I was honored that my name was the first Earle mentioned at his press conference as a well-qualified potential successor. Shortly thereafter, former Representative Dell Baker, the Republican who ran against Comptroller General Morris in 1994, offered his support as well.

Many other friends, Republicans and Democrats, have called to urge me to run. Drawing such bipartisan support is certainly encouraging. However, my greatest motivation is a sense of duty.

The Comptroller General is our State's "chief financial officer." You know how important the CFO is to any organization. The Comptroller General is also a leader on the State Budget and Control Board. No position is more important to the economic future of South Carolina.

As a Senator with a record of service on the Senate Finance Committee, I have always worked hard to protect taxpayers and to apply proven principles of good business to the operation of government. Also, as a businessman, I have extensive experience in financial management. Frankly, I believe my combination of experience is well suited to this quest. For all these reasons, I have made a firm decision to run.

Over the next few weeks, before I make an official announcement in March, I am forming a small Advisory Group of leaders to help launch this important statewide effort. I would be deeply honored if you would agree to take an active role in this campaign. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible. I have enclosed a "reply sheet" addressed to me for your convenience.

I look forward to the prospect of working with you in this campaign. As always, I remain

Cordially yours,


John Courson

P.S. I will be making a formal announcement in early March. Until then, please keep this information confidential. And thank you for considering my request for your help.

No tax funds whatsoever were used to pay for this mailing. The Courson campaign has not solicited nor will it accept contributions from registered lobbyists. If this letter is inadvertently delivered to a person who is registered to lobby in South Carolina, its content should be disregarded.

Source: <http://industrydocuments.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/kxdf0094>

52291 6181