

State of South Carolina  
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

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ANDRÉ BAUER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

August 26, 2009

The Honorable Mark Sanford  
Governor, The State of South Carolina  
State House, West Wing  
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Mark:

With a heavy heart and much regret, I am writing this letter to you. For the last six years, it has been my distinct honor to serve as Lt. Governor of the State of South Carolina. During this time, I have served alongside you, although we have not always agreed on every issue.

Despite these differences, I have given you my support in the best interest of the people of South Carolina. In every instance, when called upon, I have worked hard and given my best efforts to serve our state well.

And throughout your recent controversies, I have remained supportive in order to provide stability to our government and reassurance to those industrial prospects that may be bringing new jobs to the people of our state.

Now, however, things have changed. Regrettably, we have reached a point where we must ALL put the best interests of the people of South Carolina ahead of personal or political interests.

It is my opinion that the best interests of the people can no longer be served with your current administration. The serious misconduct, which has already been revealed, along with lingering questions and continuing distractions, make it virtually impossible for our state to solve the serious problems we are facing without a change of leadership.

That is why I must now call upon you -- in the interest of our state -- to resign now, and spare the taxpayers the expense and distraction of the multiple legal processes which are now being considered; and it is why I myself will lead the way by putting the best interests of the people of South Carolina ahead of my own personal or political interests.

According to media reports, if you do not resign now, the Legislature will most certainly move to impeach you when the General Assembly reconvenes—if not sooner. The Ethics Commission is looking into multiple ethics violations. According to most recent reports of the local media you are in the middle of a controversy about whether the investigations are going to be conducted transparently or behind closed doors. And the recent reports on national media generated by the first lady have brought me to the conclusion that this will not end and it's a distraction the people of our state do not need to endure.

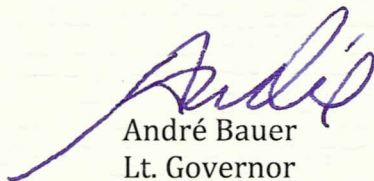
Mark, your willingness to resign now will mean the 2010 session of the General Assembly will not become bogged down in an impeachment proceeding, taking time and effort away from the more important tasks of bringing jobs to our state, balancing our budget, and improving education.

Although I am, and have been, planning to be a candidate for Governor in the 2010 election, I will forego my candidacy if you tender your resignation immediately, or if I am called upon to fill your vacancy before I announce my candidacy for Governor in the fall.

While I would certainly prefer to serve a full four-year term as Governor, there is much work that must be done during the next year. With unemployment at an all-time high and our state budget in real trouble – the needs of the people cannot wait. If I am called upon, I pledge to devote the hardest-working year and a half of my life to solving these problems, free from any re-election campaign or other distractions.

Now is the time for true leadership---to step forward and show selfless dedication that the people of South Carolina deserve. Now is the time to put the interest of the people first, regardless of political consequences.

Mark, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God bless you and bless us all as we work through these trying times to make the best decisions on behalf of the people of this great state.



André Bauer  
Lt. Governor