



March 15, 2009

Congressman Henry Brown  
103 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Brown:

I am writing to request your support for a multi-faceted training program to be offered to residents of Horry & Georgetown counties. As you know, our area is experiencing record unemployment, with the projected March '09 unemployment at or near 13% for both counties; for comparison, Horry's unemployment in March '08 was under 6%. In addition to a growing number of unemployed citizens, our region is now home to an unprecedented number of under-employed individuals. We seek your help in addressing the needs of the unemployed and underemployed through training and workforce development.

The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce seeks federal investment in workforce development through grants and appropriations provided by the United States Labor, Education, and Health & Human Services agencies. The chamber of commerce will partner with other institutions and organizations, including Coastal Carolina University and Horry-Georgetown Technical College, to deliver results-oriented training to expand and enhance the skills of the local workforce. The training will be largely focused on technology and technology-based skills.

This request will help to provide advanced training and skills improvement for hourly and supervisory workers, preparing workers for careers and/or career advancement in the region's key economic clusters. In addition to improving the skills of the potential trainees, this training will also enhance the career progression of these workers, which will make them less dependent upon low-wage jobs which often do not provide adequate benefits for an above-average standard of living. We believe this program will serve the interests of the residents and businesses of both Horry and Georgetown counties.

We thank you for your considerations and respectfully request your support in securing funding for this important initiative. With warmest regards, we remain,

Sincerely,

Brant Branham  
Chairman

Brad Dean  
President & CEO

cc: B. Jenkins