

Dear Friends,

By the time you are reading this we will have met with officials in South Carolina to determine if there is anything we can do collectively to restart the rail service for both states. As you know the Carolina Southern Railroad has been effectively closed to operation due to Federal mandates concerning several bridges. Many of you are also aware of the poor condition of the tracks and the overall lack of timely maintenance in the ongoing operation of the railroad. Whether this is due to the economic times we are facing in the southeast, the management decisions by the railroad officials or some combination of the two is subject to personal opinion and speculation. What we are focusing on is the situation locally which is affecting the Georgia Pacific Plant near Chadbourn. I, as well as others, feel that without rail service this facility will not reopen. Please be assured that this is a primary concern of mine as well as others. Hopefully we will continue to look for ways to encourage business to invest in our area. We certainly need the jobs and payroll that will be generated to reinvigorate the local economy. I will keep you posted with anything that develops.

Chadbourn has essentially finished with the radio read meter project and expects to have everything on line within the next couple of weeks. This conversion will essentially remove the errors associated with meter reading and provide the town and its customers with a comprehensive record of water usage that the consumer can use to help conserve water consumption. Thanks for your patience during this process.

The maintenance department is still cleaning ditches and making every effort as money is available to address the drainage issues that affect the Town.

Please continue to pray for our troops. As you have seen in the past couple of weeks the stability of other nations is fragile. I have faith and confidence that if we all work together we can solve our problems.