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August 10, 2009

Senator Hugh Leatherman
111 Gressette Building
Columbia, SC 29202

Senator Glenn McConnell
101 Gressette Building
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator Leatherman and Senator McConnell,

I am now reporting to you concerning intercontinental flights that Governor Sanford made to London and China within the past year and a half. Data requested by the Constitutional/Administrative Subcommittee of the South Carolina Senate Finance Committee has confirmed that these flights made by Governor Sanford violated the South Carolina Code of Regulations. The salient documents are provided for your review.

- I. The flights were paid for by the state on 8/23/06 and 8/22/07 as documented in the Comptroller General's report (See Exhibit 1). No offset from any private source is documented by either the Department of Commerce or the Comptroller General.
- II. The Governor flew to London via Envoy/Business (first class for overseas flights) class at a cost of \$7,065.23 and flew to China at a cost of \$12,215.31 (See Exhibit 1).
- III. The Code of Regulations in South Carolina mandates that the most economical method of flight be used unless an exigent situation exists, and there is no emergency indicated in either of these flights (See Exhibit 2, Code of Regulations 19-101). The difference in price between the most economical and the more expensive price of the seats the Governor chose is approximately thirteen thousand seven hundred dollars (See Exhibit 3). Other staff and dignitaries also flew on these flights but in economy class, which did not violate the Code of Regulations.
- IV. Conclusion: The two flights by Governor Sanford were in violation of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Approximately thirteen thousand seven hundred dollars exceeded the cost of the most economical flights available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Thomas".

David L. Thomas

Enclosures