

Governor Henry McMaster

Governor Henry McMaster has been an incredible supporter of manufacturing. Since becoming Governor in 2017, South Carolina has seen more than \$10 Billion in economic investments in our state and more than 30,000 new manufacturing jobs announced. McMaster understands the impact, importance, and benefit manufacturing contributes to South Carolina's prosperity.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, McMaster has supported the industry at every turn. From the very beginning, in March of 2020, he ensured that manufacturing was a critical business that remained open and was never subject to government closure. Per the request of several SCMA members, McMaster issued an Executive Order (EO 2020-22) in early April 2020 that allowed employers to make voluntary "COVID-19 Support Payments" to furloughed employees that would not count as "wages" and allow these individuals to still be eligible for state and federal unemployment benefits. This order was not mandatory in any way, but did make this option possible for those that wished to pursue it. McMaster also actively supported and signed into law S.147, the South Carolina COVID-19 Liability Immunity Act.

In addition, Governor McMaster has supported and continues to support allocations of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER), and American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding to strategic uses that are greatly beneficial to manufacturers including workforce development training, unemployment insurance trust fund, infrastructure, and broadband funding. McMaster also regularly supports our industry and SCMA through the celebration of South Carolina Manufacturing Month by issuing a statewide proclamation and participating in a series of plant tours and media briefings celebrating the industry.

Governor McMaster is a great friend to SCMA, a strong leader for our state's manufacturing community, and is committed to making sure the industry remains strong for many years to come.

Dirk Pieper

Dirk Pieper was named President and CEO at SAGE Automotive Interior's inception in 2009. Dirk joined Milliken & Company in 1979 after graduating from Washington and Lee University with a B.S. degree in Chemistry. He spent 15 years of his career in manufacturing, concluding as Director of Manufacturing. The next 15 years were spent primarily in a general management role involving marketing, development, and sales as the business manager of the Ford Business, Managing Director of Milliken's European operations, and Global Business Manager. He received his Masters of Business Administration from Clemson University in 1990.

Dirk is incredibly engaged in business and community organizations in the Upstate and statewide. He is Chairman of the Palmetto Business Forum. He serves on the Board of Directors for UNIFRAX Corporation and IXS Corporation. He is a former Chairman of the SC Manufacturers Alliance and the Upstate Heart Association. He is a member of the Peace Center Executive Committee and Board, the Academic Advisory Panel for Greenville Medical School, the National Council Textile Organization Board (Executive Committee), the Clemson University Business School Board, the UNC Kenan Flagler Business School Advisory Panel, the Upstate Alliance Foreign Direct Investment team, the CU-ICAR Visionary Steering Committee, the CEO Council - Original Equipment Supplier Association. He is Chairman of the Upstate Alliance Automotive Task Force, and a member of the Executive Council of the American Heart Association (Upstate, SC).

Dirk has been a tireless advocate for the manufacturing community, particularly the automotive and textile sectors in the state. He resides in Greenville with his wife and four children.