



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267  
COLUMBIA 29211

### GREETINGS

On behalf of the people of South Carolina, I'm pleased to welcome you to the 2005 National Summit on Cuba.

This conference provides a great opportunity to explore many aspects of the United States-Cuba relationship, especially as it relates to the American South. Given the caliber of speakers, you are sure to gain a better understanding of historical and current issues, including policy views and economic and commercial developments, as well as global opportunities and future trends.

On a personal note, some of you may know that while representing South Carolina as a member of the United States House of Representatives, I visited Cuba twice. In fact, I successfully offered a proposal to lift the travel restrictions to Cuba in 2000. Unfortunately, the legislation did not take effect while I was in Congress, but I still strongly support the idea of opening commerce with Cuba today.

In addition, on the state level, the South Carolina Secretary of Commerce and I both recognize the importance of building ties with Cuba, and there is a good deal of interest in pursuing commercial and cultural relationships with Cuba.

I'm pleased to join fellow South Carolinians in thanking everyone who helped make this Summit possible for their hard work and dedication to strengthening relations with the people of Cuba. Best wishes for a successful conference and take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford

MS/lb