

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2000

**UPSTATE FOREVER RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT
FROM CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION**

Tricia King Named As Director of Resource Protection

Upstate Forever, a non-profit organization promoting sensible growth and the protection of special places in the upstate region of South Carolina, announced today that it has received a three-year \$150,000 grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation in Flint, Michigan. The grant has been used to hire Tricia T. King as Upstate Forever's new Director of Resource Protection and Debbie Spear as its part-time administrative assistant.

Ms. King has a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from North Carolina State University and worked for several years in North Carolina on greenway and river protection projects. She will be working on similar projects for Upstate Forever as well as assisting the organization on land use issues in Spartanburg and Pickens counties. Ms. Spear is the former Director of Human Resources at the Greenville County Library.

Lois DeBacker, Program Director for the Mott Foundation's Environment Grantmaking Team, said, "South Carolina's rivers and streams are of extraordinary ecological value. We are pleased to support Upstate Forever's efforts to conserve freshwater resources in the upstate area. We are very impressed with how far the organization has come in just 18 months, and we hope they continue to gain members and achieve success."

Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, said, "We are deeply honored to have earned the confidence and trust of this

prestigious foundation. Their support will enable us to significantly expand our work in the Upstate.”

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, established in 1926 in Flint, Michigan, by an automotive pioneer, is a private philanthropy committed to supporting projects that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society. It supports nonprofit programs throughout the United States and, on a limited geographic basis, internationally. Grantmaking is focused in four programs: Civil Society, Environment, Flint Area, and Pathways Out of Poverty. The Foundation, with year-end assets of \$3.23 billion, made 580 grants totaling \$113.9 million in 1999.

For more information, please call Lois DeBacker at 810-238-5651 or Brad Wyche at 864-250-0500.