

For Immediate Release

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COUPLE PRESERVES LAND ALONG HIGHWAY 11

Kent and Lynn Davis have granted a conservation easement to Upstate Forever that will ensure the permanent protection of approximately 28 acres along Highway 11 in northern Greenville County. The heavily wooded property has over 1,800 feet of frontage along the highway. Highway 11 is a federal and state scenic highway that affords spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the north and the rolling hills of the Piedmont to the south.

"The scenic highway designation is a valuable asset to the area, but actually it provides little real protection of the beautiful vistas along the highway", said Paul Ramsey, president of the Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Byway Association, a nonprofit group working on enhancing and preserving the Highway 11 corridor. "Billboards are not allowed, but otherwise land along the highway can be developed in any way that is permitted under local land use ordinances. There are no such ordinances in this area, which means that protection of the highway corridor depends on the adjoining property owners. We deeply appreciate what the Davises have done."

"Unless something is done, this beautiful highway could end up looking like Woodruff Road with a series of strip malls. We don't own much land, but we wanted to do what we could to prevent that from happening," said Lynn Davis.

Located at the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Davis' property contains a wide variety of plant and animal life. Their residence is located on an adjoining tract and is not visible from the

highway. The couple will probably add that tract to the easement in the future, Kent Davis said.

“I hope what Kent and Lynn have done will inspire other landowners along Highway 11 to do the same thing,” said Upstate Forever Executive Director Brad Wyche. “This is a win-win—they continue to own the land, while this beautiful stretch of Highway 11 will be preserved forever for public enjoyment.”

The conservation easement, which is a legal agreement between the Davises and Upstate Forever, permanently prohibits any development, subdivision, or alteration of the land. Both Congress and the South Carolina General Assembly have provided significant tax incentives to landowners to grant conservation easements. The Davises will be taking advantage of these incentives for the easement on their property.

Upstate Forever is a nonprofit organization which manages a land trust program for protecting significant lands and natural resources in Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Pickens, Anderson, Laurens, and Oconee Counties. To date it has received seven conservation easements protecting more than 2,000 acres of land in the region. For more information about Upstate Forever’s land trust program, please call 864-250-0500 or visit its web site, www.upstateforever.org.

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For a photograph of the Davises on their property, please call
Upstate
Forever.