

**For Immediate Release**

**UPSTATE FOREVER TO HOST MAJOR CONFERENCE ON ZONING**

**March 20, 2002**

Upstate Forever announced today that it will host a major regional conference on zoning, entitled "*The "Z-Word": A Discussion of Zoning in the Upstate.*" The day long conference will be held at the Palmetto Expo Center in Greenville on Thursday, May 16, 2002.

"Zoning is one of the most misunderstood and controversial subjects in our region," said Upstate Forever Associate Director Diane Eldridge. "This conference will take the subject head on and explain what zoning is, how it works, and its pros and cons. We have assembled a terrific group of speakers, and the conference will conclude with a panel of County Council representatives from each of the Upstate counties to talk about zoning."

The agenda includes discussions about the status of zoning in the Upstate, zoning initiatives in Anderson and Laurens Counties, the disadvantages of conventional zoning from the perspectives of a developer, sociologist and planner, innovative zoning ordinances, and the legal issues associated with zoning. Renowned land use attorney and consultant Joel Russell will address this highly relevant question for the Upstate: "What Should You Do In A Region That Is Unzoned?"

Rick Pruetz, the author of the widely acclaimed book, Saved by Development, will discuss the use of Transfer of Development Rights programs as a market-driven strategy to manage growth. These programs have been successfully used in other parts of the country to protect rural areas while compensating landowners for not being able to develop their property.

The registration fee is \$50.00 per person. To download the complete agenda and registration form, visit Upstate Forever's website at [www.upstateforever.org](http://www.upstateforever.org). For additional information about the conference or other programs and activities of Upstate Forever, call (864) 250-0500, or email [info@upstateforever.org](mailto:info@upstateforever.org).