

For Immediate Release

May 11, 2004

SENATOR TO EXPLAIN "ENVISION UTAH" PROGRAM

***Program Could Be Model for Similar Initiative
on Future Growth and Development of the Upstate***

Utah State Senator Greg Bell from Salt Lake City will be visiting the Upstate on May 20 and 21, 2004 to explain the remarkable initiative in the Salt Lake region known as "Envision Utah." Now in its eighth year, the nationally acclaimed Envision Utah program has focused public attention on growth and land use issues in a region that is remarkably similar to the Upstate.

Senator Bell will be delivering the keynote address at an event entitled "Envisioning the Upstate: Economic and Environmental Prosperity for All" on May 20, 2004 at the Palmetto Expo Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. The event is open to the public, and there is no charge for admission. The invitation is attached.

The event is presented by Clemson University, the Greater Greenville Forum, Upstate Alliance and Upstate Forever.

As Senator Bell will explain, Envision Utah does not employ a heavy-handed, regulatory approach. To the contrary, the program is entirely voluntary and educational, providing information, resources and support to local communities and service providers throughout the region on growth and development issues.

Some of the highlights of the Envision Utah program include:

- "How to Grow" and "Where to Grow" workshops where the public addressed the question of how the region should accommodate the next one million people.
- The publication of four "Scenario Maps" for the future of the Salt Lake region. Two of the maps (called A and B) basically showed what the region would become if current development patterns remained unchanged, while the other two (C and D) showed the result if development was more compact and walkable.
- A cost comparison of the four scenarios. They found a \$15 billion difference in the cost of public infrastructure (roads, water, sewer,

utilities, etc.) between scenario A (\$38 billion) and scenario D (\$23 billion). Utah Governor (and now EPA Administrator) Mike Leavitt's comment, "We can't afford this!," earned front page headlines.

- A land consumption comparison of the four scenarios: 409 additional square miles of land would be developed under scenario A, but only 85 square miles under scenario D. Yet there was only a one-tenth of an acre difference in the average residential lot size between the two scenarios (one-third of an acre for scenario A and one-fourth of an acre for scenario D).
- A public preference survey on the four scenarios. There was overwhelming support for a region that is less sprawling, less land consumptive, more fiscally responsible, and more pedestrian friendly. In fact, less than 10 per cent of the public supported scenarios A and B.

(The above information and much more are available on the Envision Utah website, www.envisionutah.org).

Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, said, "There are so many similarities between the Salt Lake region and the Upstate. Both regions are politically conservative, topographically blessed with spectacular mountains and rich farmlands, have the same number of counties, and are governed by a complex structure of hundreds of local councils and special purpose districts. Both areas, too, face the immense challenges associated with rapid population growth. The Envision Utah approach could be a great model for our region to use in addressing these challenges."

Senator Bell said, "I do not know that much about the Upstate, but I am honored to come to your area and explain the Envision Utah program and how successful and well received it has been in our region. The concepts and principles used in Envision Utah are not unique to the Salt Lake region. They can work well in any fast-growing region."

Senator Bell's presentation will be preceded by a summary of the initial findings of a growth impact study for the Upstate performed by the Clemson University Center for Community Growth and Change.

For additional information, please contact:

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