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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE AIR WE BREATHE TO HOST SPEAKERS ON ECONOMIC AND
HEALTH IMPACT OF AIR QUALITY
Forum to be held at Spartanburg Public Library Headquarters on September 9**

SPARTANBURG, SC (August 17, 2009): "The Air We Breathe," a campaign to educate the Spartanburg community about ways to curb ground-level ozone pollution, will host the first event in a three part series on air quality on September 9, 2009 in the Barrett Room at the Spartanburg County Library Headquarters. **The Impacts of Air Quality, Part 1: Health and Economy** is scheduled from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

The September 9 forum will bring several experts to Spartanburg in the field of air quality. They will present important perspectives on the health effects of ground-level ozone and on the potential economic impacts communities face when they fail to meet federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Dr. Robin Puett, of the University of South Carolina department of Environmental Health, will address the health concerns associated with poor air quality. Dr. Puett has earned PhD degrees in Epidemiology in Environmental Health, both from the University of South Carolina. Her primary fields of interest are environmental epidemiology and environmental health assessments.

Mr. Danny Patterson, President of the Policy Exchange Foundation in Birmingham, Alabama, will address the economic impact of "non-attainment" status designation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Non-attainment status indicates a failure of a community to reach the NAAQS for six types of airborne pollutants established by the EPA. Spartanburg County is in line with the NAAQS for five of those pollutants, but the county is out of compliance with the standards for ground-level ozone. A representative of the EPA will address the science behind the NAAQS as part of this event.

The Policy Exchange Foundation is a non-profit specializing in education and outreach in air quality issues in Birmingham, Alabama. Birmingham has been dealing with the economic impacts of poor air quality for some time; officials estimate that Birmingham lost \$4.6 billion in economic development through the 1990s. To date, Patterson has worked with more than 400 companies to facilitate and coordinate outreach and education about transportation programs for employees of private companies, non-profits, and universities.

This special three part series on Air Quality is sponsored by the JM Smith Foundation.

The Spartanburg County Public Library Headquarters is located at 151 South Church Street in Spartanburg. To register for the event, please call 327-0090, or email nbarrett@upstateforever.org.

About THE AIR WE BREATHE: “The Air We Breathe” is a collaborative effort to reduce ground-level ozone and other forms of air pollution in Spartanburg County. The goal of this campaign is to inform the general public about the impacts of ozone on community health, economic development and overall quality of life and the easy behavioral changes they can make in their daily lives to decrease ground level ozone. Visit www.cleanairspartanburg.com to receive updates on daily air quality, as well as information about how you can reduce ozone emissions in your daily life.

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