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Tuesday's letters to the Editor

Published: Tuesday, December 23, 2008 at 3:15 a.m.

UPSTATE FOREVER

I felt it important to write regarding the recent announcement that the Spartanburg office of Upstate Forever would be closing due to a shortage of funds. It has made a huge difference in Spartanburg County, and it would be devastating to lose it.

It has permanently protected critically important lands in the northern part of the county. If Upstate Forever had not been here, we would probably have a new landfill in the county. Upstate Forever has brought to Spartanburg some of the country's leading experts on land use, sustainable development and conservation. I attended the Smart Growth presentation by the governor of Maryland and volunteered at Upstate Forever's open house of two Earthcraft homes. It has supported our recent drought with a rain barrel education program.

At long last, and largely because of its efforts, Spartanburg County is seriously considering land use and growth management policies.

We need Upstate Forever in Spartanburg - now more than ever. I've been supporting the organization for several years as a member and a volunteer. If you're not already a member, please join today, and let's keep this great organization in Spartanburg! We need to rally around this fine organization and keep it here.

Dan Gerst

Communications chairman, Upstate branch, U.S. Green Building Council

WRONG APPROACH

Bailouts are negative reactions to our free market economy. They bring no positive changes to the economy, only confusion and further loss of confidence in it, and they could cost taxpayers trillions of dollars. Once the government interferes with the free market economy, it cannot get out, which amounts to a forward march toward socialism. Bailouts must be stopped; they only worsen the situation.

A positive option is out there: Suspend or reduce the capital gains tax rate, the corporate tax rate and common tax rates applicable to small-business concerns. This would also be much less expensive than bailouts in the long run. This action would restore confidence in the economy and would generate investments, production of goods and services, expansion and creation of jobs and more consumer spending. This chain reaction is needed to get the economy moving.

This scenario also offers more long-term stability and benefits to the economy than the president-elect's proposal, which would create a relatively small number of jobs through infrastructure work. The reduction of taxes applies to all of the economy and would have a more immediate and significant impact.

John McDade

Inman
