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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Senator Jim Ritchie to Hold Press Conference on New Home Builders Legislation *Ritchie to be Joined by the Home Builders Association of SC, House Sponsor*

COLUMBIA, SC - Today, Senator Jim Ritchie (R - Spartanburg), Majority Whip, announced that he will hold a press conference on Wednesday, March 26 in the State House Lobby. The press conference is to announce the introduction of new legislation to incentivize homebuilders to build sustainable homes.

In addition to leadership and grassroots members of the Home Builders Association of South Carolina, Senator Ritchie will be joined at the press conference by Representative Nikki Haley (R - Lexington), who will be introducing companion legislation in the South Carolina House of Representatives.

- WHO:** Senator Jim Ritchie, Majority Whip
Representative Nikki Haley
Home Builders Association of South Carolina
- WHAT:** "Energy Independence and Sustainable Homes Act"
Press Conference to Introduce Sustainable Construction for Homes Bill
- WHEN:** Wednesday, March 26, 2008 - 2:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** State House Lobby (area between Senate and House Chambers)
Columbia, South Carolina

The Energy Independence and Sustainable Homes Act is the fifth bill in a series of legislation that Senator Ritchie has introduced, collectively entitled Energy Independence for South Carolina's Future. This package addresses South Carolina's growing dependence on foreign energy, the rising costs of energy on our state, the effects of a building's indoor environment on its residents, and protecting the beautiful environment for which South Carolina has become famous.

The first four bills were introduced in 2007 and gained widespread, bipartisan support from members of the Senate in addition to prominent state business and conservation groups. Three of the four bills passed the Senate in their first year and one, the Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction Act, became law in June 2007.

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