



SOUTH CAROLINA HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2006

Legislation advances SC's hydrogen future

Columbia, S.C. – House Speaker Bobby Harrell announced today hydrogen based legislation proposing \$15 million in state grants and tax credits to companies that partner with South Carolina-based research institutions to support hydrogen and fuel cell initiatives. Harrell's announcement serves as a significant first step leading the state down the hydrogen highway and catapulting South Carolina into the national spotlight by creating jobs and reducing dependence on foreign sources of oil.

The hydrogen friendly legislation arrives less than one year after the formation of the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance (SCHFCA), a nonprofit corporation in place to promote and foster hydrogen and fuel cell investigation, integration and education.

"We have all worked hard during this past year to bring South Carolina to the forefront on hydrogen and fuel cells and we have seen results," said SCHFCA Chairman Fred Humes. "Speaker Harrell is a champion for hydrogen and fuel cell technology and this announcement is great way for us to end the year and to get ready for implementation next year."

Speaker Harrell's legislation is expected to attract businesses to the state that are interested in hydrogen and fuel cell technology, propelling SCHFCA's vision for a sustainable hydrogen economy.

Founded in January 2006, SCHFCA is leading the way towards making South Carolina a player in the national and international hydrogen economies through research and partnerships of its founding members, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Clemson University, the Center for Hydrogen Research, the Savannah River National Laboratory, South Carolina State University and the University of South Carolina.

In July, The National Hydrogen Association announced it selected SCHFCA to host its annual conference in Columbia in 2009. The four-day conference is expected to bring approximately \$1 million in economic impact to the area through its 1,200 attendants and hundreds of exhibitors. The Alliance has also sponsored the 2007 H2U Student Design Competition, supporting multi-disciplinary teams students around the country to develop innovative design concepts using hydrogen technologies.

In addition to participation in national and international conferences, SCHFCA has also developed plans to create an extensive hydrogen infrastructure connecting major regions of the state, capitalizing on their indigenous resources to create hydrogen. South Carolina's compact size and existing research in hydrogen and fuel cell technology make it an ideal location for the deployment of hydrogen technologies.

For more information on the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance, please visit www.SCHydrogen.org.

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