

DONATION OF STEVENS CREEK  
NATURAL AREA BY CONTINENTAL  
FOREST INDUSTRIES

REMARKS BY

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ON BEHALF OF ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS, I WISH TO WELCOME THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NEW TO OUR STATE. IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU.

AS ANYONE WHO HAS HAD OCCASION TO TRAVEL IN OUR STATE IS WELL AWARE, SOUTH CAROLINA IS PROUD OF ITS NATURAL HERITAGE. OUR TIES TO THE LAND ARE STRONG, OUR RESPECT FOR THE LAND RUNS DEEPLY THROUGH GENERATIONS OF TRADITION. OUR AWARENESS OF THE BEAUTY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF OUR LAND IS REFLECTED IN PRACTICALLY ALL OF OUR ACTIONS.

IT IS THE AVAILABILITY OF LAND FOR AGRICULTURE, HOUSING, INDUSTRY, AND RECREATION, NOT TO MENTION

PLAIN OPEN SPACE, WHICH MAKES SOUTH CAROLINA THE  
SECOND FASTEST GROWING STATE IN THE SOUTHEAST.

DESPITE THIS GROWTH AND THE GOOD TIMES AHEAD, SOUTH  
CAROLINA IS DETERMINED TO KEEP ITS MOST VALUABLE  
OPEN SPACES OPEN. WE DO NOT INTEND TO SQUANDER  
OUR NATURAL ASSETS IN THE COURSE OF ACCOMMODATING  
THOSE WHO WERE INDUCED TO SETTLE IN OUR STATE  
BECAUSE OF THIS VERY ATTRACTION.

CONTINENTAL CAN COMPANY AND ITS OFFSPRING,  
CONTINENTAL FOREST INDUSTRIES, HAVE LONG BEEN  
CORPORATE CITIZENS OF SOUTH CAROLINA. THEY HAVE  
SHARED IN OUR PROUD TRADITION OF GOOD STEWARDSHIP.

IT IS THIS TRADITION OF STEWARDSHIP WHICH MAKES THIS MEETING POSSIBLE, FOR IF CONTINENTAL HAD PRACTICED THE CUT-AND-GET-OUT PHILOSOPHY OF LESS SCRUPULOUS TURN OF THE CENTURY FOREBEARERS, IT WOULD HAVE CLEARED THE HARDWOODS FROM STEVENS CREEK BLUFF LONG AGO.

THE BLUFF WOULD ALSO HAVE LONG SINCE WASHED INTO STEVENS CREEK, CARRYING WITH IT ALL TRACES OF THE REMARKABLE PLANT LIFE FOUND THERE.

I AM TOLD THAT THIS BLUFF HARBORS A SHRUB FOUND ON ONLY ONE OTHER SITE IN THE WORLD, AND THAT THE DIVERSE WILDFLOWER POPULATION RIVALS THE MOST SECLUDED MOUNTAIN COVE IN THE BEAUTY OF ITS SPRING

FLORAL DISPLAY.

BY THE ACCOUNT OF SCIENTISTS IN A POSITION TO KNOW,  
THIS BLUFF AND ITS REMARKABLE DIVERSITY OF FLORA  
ARE THOUGHT TO BE A REMNANT FROM A TIME THOUSANDS  
OF YEARS AGO. CLEARLY, THIS BLUFF IS A UNIQUE  
ELEMENT OF OUR NATURAL LANDSCAPE, AND WE ARE  
INDEBTED TO CONTINENTAL FOREST INDUSTRIES FOR  
RECOGNIZING THIS FACT AND FOR SEEING TO IT THAT THE  
SITE WAS NOT DISTURBED.

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I ACCEPT THIS GENEROUS  
AND TIMELY DONATION ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA  
HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM AND THE CITIZENS IT SERVES.

I HEREBY NAME IT STEVENS CREEK NATURAL AREA AND PLEDGE TO ITS DONORS THAT THE EXAMPLE THAT THEY HAVE SET IN ITS STEWARDSHIP WILL BE FOLLOWED.

I AM ALSO INDEBTED TO THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FOR ITS PART IN ARRANGING FOR THE TRANSFER OF STEVENS CREEK NATURAL AREA TO THE STATE. BY NOW, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IS AN OLD FRIEND TO SOUTH CAROLINIANS, HAVING INSTITUTED THE HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE, AND HAVING BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE ACQUISITION OF THREE PRIME WILDERNESS AREAS BY THE STATE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

IF SOUTH CAROLINA IS SUCCESSFUL IN PRESERVING ITS  
MOST VALUABLE OPEN SPACE IN CONCERT WITH PRESENT  
AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, THE CREDIT WILL GO IN LARGE  
PART TO THIS TENACIOUS AND SKILLED ORGANIZATION.

IT IS FITTING THAT THE NATURE CONSERVANCY HAS ELECTED  
TO HOLD ITS 1977 ANNUAL MEETING IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

I UNDERSTAND THIS MEETING IS TO BE HELD IN CHARLESTON  
IN OCTOBER, AND I COMMEND THIS MEETING TO OUR  
CITIZENS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE CONSERVANCY AND TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN ITS  
ACTIVITIES.

IN CONCLUSION, LET ME THANK ALL WHO PLAYED A PART  
IN SECURING THIS ADDITION TO OUR SYSTEM OF HERITAGE  
PRESERVES, ESPECIALLY THE DONOR, CONTINENTAL FOREST  
INDUSTRIES, FOR ITS GENEROUS AND FAR-SIGHTED ACTIONS.