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Subject: Release - Ways and Means Committee to Review Educational Building Practices

**Brian White, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
South Carolina House of Representatives**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ways and Means Committee to Review Educational Building Practices
Committee will review all aspects of K-16 capital projects

(Columbia, SC) – Today, South Carolina House of Representatives Ways and Means Chairman, Brian White (R - Anderson) announced the creation of a bipartisan K-16 building need and utilization study committee. South Carolina has 85 public school districts and 33 institutions of higher education (including technical colleges) each exhausting significant resources on capital/building projects. Over a two year period for which most recent data is available (FY 10 and FY 11), K-16 education incurred \$2.4 billion in costs associated with building projects. That represents \$256 per resident per year in South Carolina.

Chairman White said today, "Regardless of how creative our schools get with financing their projects, the bottom line is they are all public institutions and ultimately tax payers are left holding the bill. Through the creation of this committee I am not suggesting we place a state-wide, unconditional moratorium on all K-16 building projects, but I do think we need a better understanding on what we are doing as a state with regard to educational buildings. One of our most important jobs as legislators is to make sure our students have access to a quality education that is affordable to parents and students at every level."

The committee will be chaired by Chairman White and includes four Republicans and two Democrats. The other members of the committee are - Rep. Kenny Bingham, Rep. Chip Limehouse, Rep. Roland Smith, Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, and Rep. Jackie Hayes. Chairman White expects the committee to hold their first meeting by the middle of January. Among the items that the committee will be asked to review are debt levels, building utilization, deferred maintenance and future need.

Chairman White was recently elected to his first full term as Ways and Means Chair. He had previously been elected in May 2011 to serve a one year term following the resignation of Dan Cooper. The South Carolina House of Representatives will convene the for a new **two** year session on Tuesday January 8, 2013.

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