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Contact: Representative James Smith
803-931-2200
james@jamesmithpa.com

Bi-Partisan Group of South Carolina Legislators Form New Energy Caucus

Driven by Suspension of the V.C. Summer nuclear project, the Energy Caucus will fight to protect South Carolina's ratepayers.

(Columbia) - With so many questions surrounding the future of energy development in South Carolina, state lawmakers have come together to form a new bipartisan energy caucus. The group will ensure South Carolina's homes and businesses have access to affordable energy options, fight to protect energy jobs, and focus on correcting institutional deficiencies in South Carolina that led to the ultimate demise of the V.C. Summer nuclear project.

Rep. James Smith said, "In the wake of Monday's announcement, Democrats and Republicans from the South Carolina House and Senate have come together to push for reforms that will (1) protect ratepayers (2) ensure competitive rates and (3) establish a clear and enforceable Energy Plan for South Carolina's future. This bipartisan Energy Caucus will serve South Carolina and South Carolinians first and always. We will look not just at the Base Load Review Act but also examine PSC and ORS reforms. There should be safeguards in place for accountability and ratepayers should have total protection from paying for the failures of a few. In politics, we can be voted out when we mess up. Those who dropped the ball here should be held accountable."

"Somewhere along the way the system failed South Carolina's citizens. A system that leaves ratepayers having to pay the price for an unfinished nuclear plant needs substantial changes," added Rep. Kirkman Finlay.

The new Energy Caucus will join together to discuss and advocate for an energy future with diverse options that lead to job growth and empowered citizens.

Senator Paul Campbell added, "South Carolina deserves a vibrant energy economy that attracts new jobs. Everyone wants to preserve and protect our state for generations to come. South Carolina is a leading job creator when it comes to energy sources like solar, wind, and natural gas. It's time to make sure we have a forward-looking plan for the future determined with direct input from the public."

The Energy Caucus will host a press conference for members of the state press corps at the State House on Wednesday, August 2nd at 10:30 AM. The caucus will use this opportunity to actively seek public input on the state's energy future through public hearings and events.

SC Energy Caucus Founding Members include: Senators Paul Campbell, Greg Gregory, Margie Bright Matthews, Thomas McElveen, Mia McLeod, Katrina Shealy, Vincent Sheheen, Tom Young, House Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope, House Majority Leader Gary Simrill, House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, and Representatives Nathan Ballentine, Lin Bennett, Beth Bernstein, Micah Caskey, Gary Clary, Neal Collins, Jason Elliott, Kirkman Finlay, Laurie Funderburk, Bill Herbkersman, Lee Hewitt, Peter McCoy, Weston Newton, Russell Ott, James Smith, Leon Stavrinakis and others who will be named later.