



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2026

Contact: Nicolette Walters

803-734-3125

NicoletteWalters@schouse.gov

Speaker Smith Joins President Alexander in Call for Independent Review Request

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) – This morning, House Speaker Murrell Smith joined Senate President Thomas Alexander in expressing support for a formal request to the Office of the Inspector General to conduct an independent review of matters related to the Newry Development project in Oconee County. Speaker Smith noted that House leadership has been in consultation with members of the Senate and that the issue has been discussed collaboratively. House leaders joined in emphasizing that the request is not an allegation of wrongdoing, but rather a proactive and responsible step to ensure transparency, maintain public trust, and provide clarity for all parties involved.

“The House fully supports this request for an independent review,” **said Speaker Murrell Smith.** “Public confidence in our institutions depends not only on whether the law is followed, but on whether actions are viewed as beyond reproach. The House and Senate have been in communication on this issue, and we share the same goal: clarity, credibility, and confidence in the outcome, no matter what it may be.”

Rep. Adam Duncan, who represents the district impacted by the Newry Development project, said his constituents deserve transparency and answers.

“The people of Oconee County deserve clarity and confidence in the decisions that affect their community,” **said Rep. Adam Duncan.** “An independent review ensures that questions are answered thoroughly and objectively, and public trust is maintained.”

###