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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Gov. McMaster Kicks off SC Aviation Week in Upstate**

*Bill Signing Scheduled for Aug. 16 at Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport*

**Spartanburg, SC** – South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster will help kick off South Carolina Aviation Week on Aug. 16, 2021, at Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport, where he will hold a ceremonial signing of Senate Bill 675, legislation to help with airport funding. The signing takes place at 2:30 p.m.

“Airports are crucial to South Carolina’s growth and foster economic development across the state,” said Terry Connorton, director of Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport. “The bill recently passed by the legislature will ensure all airports within the state airport system receive the tax-generated funding to which they are entitled.”

The governor will be joined by Upstate Senator Josh Kimbrell, who sponsored the bill that will help airports get funding from state tax dollars. A F-16 flyover is scheduled to commemorate S.C. Aviation Week and the event.

S.C. Aviation Week is a statewide celebration of the economic and educational impact of airports and the aviation industry. Occurring August 15 – 21, 2021, and centered around National Aviation Day and Wilbur Wright’s birthday on August 19, Aviation Week is planned in partnership by South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA) and South Carolina Aeronautics Commission.

“Few people know the Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport was the first public airport in the state and has a rich history, including a visit from Charles Lindbergh in 1927,” Connorton, who is also the president of SCAA, added. “Today the facility is the third busiest in the state with nearly 69,000 operations each year and contributes \$15.4 million to the local economy.”

South Carolina has 58 publicly owned, public use airports across the state. Spartanburg Downtown Memorial airport is the City of Spartanburg’s largest owned asset. For more information about the facility, visit [www.cityofspartanburg.org/airport](http://www.cityofspartanburg.org/airport).

SCAA actively promotes and encourages aviation and airport development to meet air transportation needs and assist the state in achieving economic development goals. Its membership is comprised of airports, aviation industry partners and aviators across South Carolina. For more information, please visit [scaaonline.com](http://scaaonline.com).

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