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SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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For Immediate Release

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NFIB and the Department of Commerce to Host Capital Access Webinar
Webinar offered to small business owners free of charge

COLUMBIA, SC – January 8, 2010 - The South Carolina Department of Commerce is partnering with the National Federation of Independent Businesses to host a free, online forum to present information about capital programs available to small businesses across the state.

The webinar, entitled "Access to Capital – A Guide for Small Businesses," will be held on January 13, at 11 a.m., and will be the first of three webinars to be hosted by NFIB/South Carolina and the Department of Commerce. The remaining two webinars will be held later this year and will focus on Marketing and Business Development and Regulations, Licensing and Permitting.

The webinar held on January 13 will allow small business owners will learn about the range of programs and funding sources available to small businesses.

"We're very excited about the partnership with the Department of Commerce and the introduction of the Guide for Small Business webinar series for our small business members. According to our research, this is not only a first in South Carolina, but in the whole country," said J.J. Darby, State Director of NFIB/South Carolina, the state's leading small business association.

Speakers and presenters at the webinar will include J.J. Darby, State Director of NFIB/South Carolina, Chuck Bundy, manager of Business Services for the S.C. Department of Commerce, Theresa Singleton, deputy district director for the Small Business Administration, Edwin Leslie, president of the Business Development Corporation and Mike Sandusky, president of Business Carolina Inc. Participants will not only gain valuable insight regarding access to capital, but participants will also be able to ask questions of presenters during the webinar.

"This webinar will provide great resources and expertise for small business owners throughout the state and we hope many individuals will take advantage of this opportunity. Small businesses are the driving force of our economy and we are pleased to partner with NFIB to offer a series of webinars that will provide important information to help more small businesses grow," said Joe Taylor, Secretary of Commerce.

Presentations will focus on non-commercial bank capital resources in South Carolina such as programs available through the Small Business Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Guarantee Loan programs. Information regarding export financing and venture capital resources will also be presented. Participants have the opportunity to interact with other small business owners and learn about additional state and local resources available to assist companies in finding capital.

To register, please send an e-mail to kyle.jackson@nfib.org or call the NFIB/South Carolina office at 803-254-1476. After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with information about joining the webinar.

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