



For Immediate Release

## **Bonnie Ammons named first executive director of Rural Infrastructure Authority**

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – November 8, 2012 – Bonnie Ammons is the newly appointed executive director of the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA). The announcement was made by the RIA board during the organization’s board meeting today at the S.C. Department of Commerce. T

he RIA was created by the S.C. General Assembly and is tasked with selecting and assisting in financing qualified rural infrastructure by providing loans and other financial assistance to municipalities, counties, special purpose and public service districts, as well as public works commissions for constructing and improving rural infrastructure facilities. Ammons will serve as the authority’s first executive director.

“Bonnie Ammons has a wealth of experience in the economic development arena, working with rural areas across the state. She has been a valuable part of the Commerce team for years and is a perfect fit for helping lead the Rural Infrastructure Authority,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, who is board chairman of the RIA.

Ammons has worked in state government for more than 21 years, most recently serving as the assistant director of Federal Grant Programs in the Grants Division at the S.C. Department of Commerce. As assistant director, she oversaw the state’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the Appalachian Regional Commission Program, which have annual allocations of approximately \$25 million. During her tenure, the CDBG program received numerous awards and recognition from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Council of State Community Development Agencies and the National Association of Development Organizations. Ammons is a Montgomery, Ala. native and graduated from Auburn University at Montgomery.