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**NC GOVERNOR MARKS MARKET'S CENTENNIAL WITH PROCLAMATION
Addresses International Delegates/Emphasizes Importance of Global
Competitiveness**

High Point, North Carolina, April 28, 2009—During a meeting with trade representatives and international buyers shopping the Market this week, Governor Beverly Perdue demonstrated her support for the High Point Market with a proclamation honoring the Market's Centennial and emphasized the importance of international business development.

"The world has changed," Perdue said. "We live in a global community. It is not North Carolina competing with other American states, it's North Carolina competing with the world, and thus North Carolina must be a friend and a business partner with the world."

According to Brian D. Casey, president and chief executive officer of the High Point Market Authority, international attendance at the Market has nearly doubled in the past two years.

"[This Spring], the U.S. Department of Commerce has been able to aid us in bringing more than 70 delegates from Saudi Arabia, Africa, Senegal, Kenya, Canada, Mexico, Ukraine and Honduras, and that's only a small part of the nearly 100 countries that are represented this week," Casey reported. "The outreach has helped us do two things. One is to put High Point and North Carolina on the map as the world's home for home furnishings, but also, to leverage it in a way that businesses, when they think of coming to the U.S., whether they are manufacturers or buyers, or any other business related to furniture, think of North Carolina first."

Perdue presented Casey with a proclamation that commemorated Market's anniversary, and its status as a world showcase for home furnishings.

“There are 9.5 million people in North Carolina who do believe that this is the home of the world’s home for home furnishings,” Perdue noted. “As you look around, you see folks who are from all over the country, as well as people here from all over the globe. Brian [Casey] has done a great job as a leader of the furniture brand in North Carolina, High Point’s brand and Market’s brand.

“We’re 100 years old this year, and our history books are replete with mentions of how the High Point brand was built, how the furniture industry has been the bedrock of North Carolina’s economy, and how we have transitioned into a global market. It has become an international event,” the Governor said. “As I look at things that I believe are constant, in a global economy, I really do believe, that in 100 years, there will be someone else standing here and someone else sitting here, and they will be celebrating the second hundred years of this enterprise. This is something that only gets bigger, and only gets better, because we do it right in High Point.”

In addressing the international delegates, Perdue noted that while the High Point Market attracts people from every corner of the globe, speaking different languages, and coming from different cultures and different settings, “we all have in our human capacity an ability to understand fine furniture, good workmanship, and good craftsmanship, and we understand something that will last. I’m a thrifty leader, and I make good judgments for the people of North Carolina,” she said, “but for myself, when I buy a piece of furniture, or a painting, or a piece of glass, I buy something that I know my children are going to fight over when I’ve gone on, because I want quality, and I want endurance, and I want something that passes the test of time. This Market has passed the test of time and you are all a testament to our success and we thank you.”

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