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Drivers Get Behind the Wheel of the Newest Electric Vehicles at the Texas Capitol

AUSTIN— Today some lucky drivers experienced driving the newest electric vehicles on the road, getting a front seat view of what the future holds for Texas drivers. In celebration of its Electric Vehicle Day, *Plug-In Texas*, a statewide coalition dedicated to promoting battery electric, plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles in Texas, steered more than 300 Texans through an EV exhibit including test drives of multiple electric vehicles at the Texas State Capitol.

The *Plug-In Texas* test drive and exhibit featured the Chevrolet Volt, Ford Focus Electric, Tesla Roadster, Toyota Prius PHV, and the eVgo charging station (a division of NRG Energy). Drivers enjoyed a brief, central Austin test drive near the Capitol grounds, experiencing the smooth, fun and emission free ride of plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles.

Today's test drive and exhibit were created to educate state policymakers, Capitol staffers, and the general public on the benefits and viability of electric vehicles. Among the legislators viewing and driving the cars were Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo; Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio; Rep. Chuck Hopson, R- Jacksonville; Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin; and Rep. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood.

Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, D-Austin, was excited about seeing these energy-saving cars on the road. "Texas has more to gain from electric vehicle technology than almost any other state. The promotion of clean, efficient energy is a top priority of mine. Given our expansive highways and growing cities, this technology just makes sense for Texas."

According to Russell Keene, president of *Plug-In Texas*, electric vehicles will undoubtedly be the choice car of Texas' families in the future. "While Texas is a global leader in the energy sector, our state should also take the lead to introduce drivers to the most economical, environmentally friendly form of transportation on the road with electric vehicles. EVs work to protect the environment through emissions reductions, are less expensive to maintain for the consumer, and will reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Most importantly, as our guests have seen today, these vehicles are fun to drive!"

New models of electric vehicles began arriving for commercial sale in Texas in 2010 with new models expected to rollout into 2013 from almost every automobile manufacturer. *Plug-In Texas'* members and

partners are working together to develop an electric vehicle ecosystem enabling Texans to embrace these new vehicles which offer a range of benefits for the consumer, the environment and the state. Texas, home to four of the nation's 15 largest cities and more than 20 million cars, is poised to become a market leader in this transformative transportation technology.

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Plug-In Texas Members: Environment Texas, Environmental Defense Fund, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Gulf States Toyota, Luminant, NRG Energy, Texas Automobile Dealers Association, Toyota and TXU Energy.

About Plug-In Texas: Plug-In Texas is a broad-based and growing statewide coalition of private and public interests dedicated to supporting policy changes that promote battery electric, plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles in Texas, as well as the infrastructure needed to support them. Plug-In Texas will support activities that create new jobs, foster development of new technologies and spur economic activity that supports the electric vehicle industry. For more information about Plug-In Texas, visit www.PlugInTexas.org.

Note to Editors: Photos attached

Caption Photo 1: Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, D-Austin, admires the Toyota Prius PHV at Plug-In Texas' EV Day at the Capitol.

Caption Photo 2: Rep. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, views the Tesla Roadster's battery pack at the Plug-In Texas State Capitol event.