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Coalition Hosts Second Electric Vehicle Roundtable Discussion *Plug-In Texas* Supports Growth of EV Market in Lone Star State

IRVING – Participants in a roundtable discussion on the benefits and viability of plug-in electric cars agreed Wednesday that Texas is well-positioned to become a market leader for a new generation of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Buddy Garcia, Commissioner with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and State Rep. Burt Solomons (R-Carrollton), chairman of the House State Affairs Committee, appeared as special guests at Wednesday's event.

"Replacing vehicles powered by conventional internal combustion engines with battery driven electric cars would reduce smog and improve air quality," Garcia said. "Through our agency's own successful 'Drive a Clean Machine' program, which gets older, heavy-polluting vehicles removed from the road, we've seen how receptive Texans are to personally improving air quality."

Representatives of Luminant, a Dallas-based electricity generator; Environmental Defense Fund; Reliant, a retail electricity supplier based in Houston, and unit of NRG Energy; TXU Energy; and the Texas Automobile Dealers Association, also participated in Wednesday's roundtable discussion, hosted by *Plug-In Texas*.

While electric vehicles (EVs) have yet to hit the road in significant numbers, Texas is poised to take a leadership in the emerging marketplace, panelists agreed.

"Electric vehicles are a promising new technology," Rep. Solomons noted. "And that market will help create new jobs and investment in Texas."

Several automobile manufacturers and several start-up companies have announced plans to release a line of plug-in hybrid or all-electric plug-in cars later this year or in 2011. The Obama Administration has set a goal of putting one million electric vehicles on the road by 2015, and is

trying to jump-start the industry with \$8.5 billion in loans for the production of fuel-efficient cars, including plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles.

Jenny Danieau, Senior Transportation Planner with the North Texas Council of Governments, said EVs show real potential in reducing pollution from mobile sources in the DFW area.

“This is not some pie-in-the-sky, futuristic concept,” Danieau said. “EVs can make a significant impact on improving air quality in Texas’ urban areas, including the Metroplex.”

Many EV owners are expected to recharge their batteries at night, tapping into power produced by the wind, which tends to blow stronger after sundown.

“Texas leads the nation in installed capacity from wind power,” TCEQ’s Garcia noted. “Electric vehicles would be an ideal complement to this new and expanding source of energy. It’s a win-win all the way around.”

Other participants in Wednesday’s roundtable included Phil Wilson, senior vice president, Public Affairs for Luminant; Michael Harrigan, vice president, Electric Vehicles Services for NRG Energy; Kate Robertson, Energy Efficiency Specialist with the Environmental Defense Fund; Rob Braziel, CEO of Legislative Affairs for the Texas Automobile Dealers Association; Brian Tulloh, vice president, Public Affairs for TXU Energy; Keiichi Kitahara, senior manager, Corporate Planning at Nissan North America; and Dr. Robert Helms, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Director, Institute for Intelligent Energy Systems, The University of Texas at Dallas.

NRG Energy provided a converted plug-in hybrid Ford Escape and a Coulomb CT-1000 public charging station for display. The event was hosted at the offices of TXU Energy in Irving.

***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, improve environmental conditions and spur economic activity that supports the electric vehicle industry. The coalition intends to serve as a clearinghouse for information on EVs, and will support initiatives that market their development and promote their commercial viability. For more information about Plug-In Texas, visit www.PlugInTexas.org*

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