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PRESS RELEASE

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EESI APPLAUDS SUCCESS OF THE NATIONAL PLUG-IN PARTNERS CAMPAIGN

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) congratulates the National Plug-in Partners Campaign on completing a highly successful first year building public support for flexible-fuel plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs). The campaign, which is spearheaded by the city of Austin and Austin Energy, is helping to demonstrate to auto manufacturers that a market for flexible-fuel plug-in hybrid vehicles exists today. EESI is a proud member of the National Plug-in Partner Coalition

During the past year, the National Plug-In Partners Campaign has received tremendous response from state and local governments, businesses, utilities, as well as national security, environmental and public interest groups. More than 500 entities have joined the campaign including a number of the nation's largest cities including Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Memphis, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. In addition, the campaign has now surpassed **8,000 fleet orders**, helping to prove to automakers that if they build plug-in vehicles, Americans will buy them.

"Less than a year after the launch of the national campaign, automakers have started to respond to the challenge. General Motors, Ford, Toyota, and Nissan have all expressed their interest in plug-ins. The Detroit Auto Show offered us a peek at what is to come with the Chevrolet Volt and Ford Airstream concept plug-in vehicles. DaimlerChrysler is already testing its Dodge Sprinter plug-in van prototype on the road. So let the race to make the first commercially available plug-in hybrid begin!" said Carol Werner, executive director of EESI.

The President and Members of Congress also have signaled their strong support for this technology. The brand new Congress is abuzz with activity with several new bills (**S. 298, S.339, H.R 589**) in support of plug-ins already introduced and many more legislative initiatives forthcoming. In the last Congress, several Senate and House bills (**H.R 6203, H.R 5965, H.R 5531, H.R 5331, H.R 4409, S. 4039, S. 3694, S.2829, and S. 2025**) focused on demonstration projects, incentives for consumers, battery research, and tax incentives in support of plug-in hybrids were introduced.

"Plug-ins hold the promise to make dramatic progress on all three fronts: reducing reliance on imported oil, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollution, and bringing savings in fuel costs to citizens and businesses. We look forward to a new auto race that is part of the solution – not part of the problem confronting us today," said Werner

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The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is a non-profit organization established in 1984 by a bipartisan, bicameral group of members of Congress to provide timely information on energy and environmental policy issues to policymakers and stakeholders and develop innovative policy solutions that set us on a cleaner, more secure and sustainable energy path.