



**For Immediate Release**

March 31, 2009

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## **Texas House Passes Landmark Bill for Clean Energy Innovation**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS** — Today, the Texas House of Representatives passed a key bill to spur innovation to help the environment. House Bill 469, supported by the Texas Conservative Coalition, creates incentives for clean coal technology that allow for carbon dioxide to be captured and used for enhanced oil recovery.

Rep. Wayne Christian (R-Center), TCC President and a co-author of the landmark bill, stated: “Technology and innovation are the keys to cleaner and more reliable electricity for Texas. While the federal government is moving toward taxes and regulations that will stifle business and cost jobs, the Texas House incentivized technological advancements that will create jobs and have a positive impact on the Texas environment. “

The bill author, Rep. Phil King (R-Weatherford), who serves on the Board of Directors of TCC, indicated just how important the bill can be for clean energy in Texas. “Just as the state has successfully used targeted incentives to make Texas the national leader in wind energy, this bill will help make sure that Texas is at the forefront of technological developments that use carbon emissions in enhanced oil recovery operations (EOR). “ Added King, “It provides a double benefit for Texas: cleaner air and more jobs.”

According to the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology:

CO<sub>2</sub> enhanced oil recovery (EOR) technology allows operators to recover oil that would normally be left in the ground when a field reaches the end of its conventional economic life. Texas is currently the leader of CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR, producing 3 to 4 times the volume of the rest of the states combined. There is potential for significant growth in CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR in Texas. Conservative estimates predict an economic value of over \$200 billion and the creation of 1.5 million jobs.<sup>i</sup>

While the supply of CO<sub>2</sub> for EOR projects comes primarily from natural CO<sub>2</sub> reservoirs, CO<sub>2</sub> captured from power plants and other sources is beginning to become economically viable. In February 2008, Tenaska, Inc. announced plans to:

[C]onstruct a technologically advanced coal-fueled electric generating plant able to capture up to 90 percent of the carbon dioxide that would otherwise enter the atmosphere. The carbon

dioxide would be sold for use in enhancing oil production in the Permian Basin, resulting in geologic storage.<sup>ii</sup>

Added TCC Board Member Linda Harper-Brown (R-Irving), “clean air is a critical issue and this bill is a major step in the right direction. I believe incentives to encourage development of new technologies are a more effective way to protect the environment and create new jobs than simply adopting a punitive approach that can push people out of work through taxes and regulation.”

HB 469 now moves to the Senate for consideration

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<sup>i</sup> “CO<sub>2</sub>–Enhanced Oil Recovery Resource Potential in Texas Potential Positive Economic Impacts” Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, April 2004.

<sup>ii</sup> “Tenaska Proposes Nation's First New Conventional Coal-Fueled Power Plant to Capture Carbon Dioxide,” PRNewswire, February 20, 2008.