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Legislation Advancing Carbon Capture and Storage Passes Texas House and Senate

May 21, 2009, Austin, Texas -- The Texas Carbon Capture and Storage Association (TxCCSA) today applauded the Texas House of Representatives for passage of Senate Bill 1387 (SB 1387), the clean energy technology bill promoting a regulatory framework for carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the state. The bill was originally sponsored by State Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) and carried in the House by State Rep. Myra Crownover (R-Denton).

“Sen. Seliger and Rep. Crownover have demonstrated great leadership and forethought for the future of our state. With the passage of this bill, Texas will lead the nation – and perhaps the world – in the next stage of fossil energy development,” said Steve Melzer, TxCCSA executive director and president. “Our state will be the first in line to become home to next generation energy projects with aggressive environmental goals. I applaud the legislature for their swift action.”

"This bill is an essential element in the evolution of power generation with environmental protections," said Seliger. "Texas will now be the leader in energy and carbon technology. I am lucky to have Rep. Crownover and the Texas Carbon Capture and Storage Association as partners in this important effort."

“Texas has always led the nation and the world in energy production. In that tradition, Senate Bill 1387 represents the model regulatory framework for the underground injection of carbon dioxide, and I am very proud of the hard work Senator Seliger and I put forth to pass this legislation,” said Crownover.

SB 1387 – once signed into law – will establish a concurrent regulatory framework for carbon storage and enhanced oil recovery in Texas. The bill grants authority to the Railroad Commission to oversee and provide permitting to operators storing anthropogenic CO₂ in connection with oil and gas production activities. The bill also calls for a state wide study by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Railroad Commission and the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) for CO₂ storage in saline formations, and directs the Legislature to consider the issue in 2011.

About the Texas Carbon Capture and Storage Association

The Texas Carbon Capture and Storage Association (TxCCSA) is committed to promoting energy security and reducing the environmental impact of fossil fuels through the advancement of carbon capture and storage in Texas. The association—which includes a diverse coalition of utilities, energy producers and environmental consultants, among others—supports environmentally responsible energy production and advocates for market-based policies and incentives that encourage the development of a commercial carbon capture and storage industry in the state.