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Date: March 12, 2010 2:13:10 PM CST

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Subject: Railroad Commission Chairman Victor Carrillo: Railroad Commission Joins Governor Perry in Fighting EPA Endangerment Finding

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March 12, 2010

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Railroad Commission Chairman Victor Carrillo: Railroad Commission Joins Governor Perry in Fighting EPA Endangerment Finding

AUSTIN-Railroad Commission Chairman Victor Carrillo on Tuesday proposed that the state agency that regulates the Texas energy industry join Texas Governor Rick Perry and Attorney General Greg Abbott in contesting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent endangerment finding on greenhouse gases - including natural gas and carbon dioxide.

"As the nation's top producer of oil and natural gas, our state and its economy have a vital interest in opposing EPA's action which will penalize Texas-our nation's premier domestic energy producer," Chairman Carrillo said. "Texas is making tremendous progress compared to most states in expanding renewable energy options and reducing greenhouse gases, as we are the nation's leader in wind power. However, EPA's actions stand to penalize our state for its production of traditional energy sources like natural gas that enable the U.S. to avoid importing more petroleum from other countries. If Texas were a nation, we would be ranked third behind the United States and Russia but ahead of Canada in total natural gas production. Natural gas is a clean-burning, plentiful, and stable domestic energy source that needs to play a pivotal role in ensuring domestic energy security for our nation."

Carrillo's proposal was approved by all three commissioners this week. This action enables the RRC to join in the "Petition for Review with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit" and also join in the "Petition for Reconsideration with the Environmental Protection Agency," which asks the EPA administrator to review her decision on endangerment and cause or contribute finding for greenhouse gases.

"EPA's finding is based on a study outsourced to a discredited international group-the International Panel on Climate Change-which has demonstrated it is neither objective nor trustworthy," Carrillo said. "Instead of imposing an onerous regulatory, financial, and

job-destroying burden on Texas, as the EPA finding will do, Washington needs to follow the Lone Star State's example on energy development," Carrillo said. "We can reach green energy goals and reduce carbon emissions with natural gas, nuclear and clean coal at a significantly lesser cost to our economy and without a decline in high-paying traditional energy jobs."

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A native of Abilene, Chairman Carrillo has worked as a petroleum geophysicist, college professor, attorney and judge. He first entered elected office in 2000, when elected to the Abilene City Council. He was later elected County Judge of his home county - the post he held when Governor Perry appointed him to the Texas Railroad Commission - the state agency overseeing oil and gas, pipeline safety, surface mining/reclamation, and natural gas utilities.