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State of Ohio Invests in Cleaner Fuels Through Grant Program

COLUMBUS, OH – On April 4, 2007 Lt. Governor Lee Fisher’s office and the Ohio Department of Development announced \$595,000 in grant awards from the Alternative Fuel Transportation Grant Program. The grant program was established in 2006 through House Bill 245, sponsored by Representative Steve Reinhard of Bucyrus. It is designed to increase availability and use of E85 and biodiesel throughout the state by investing in biofuels infrastructure.

“These grants are designed to assist in the commercialization of alternative fuels, helping farmers, retailers and consumers by addressing both the supply and demand barriers often associated with emerging industries,” said Lt. Governor Lee Fisher in a release on April 4. Fisher also serves as the Director of the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD). “The strategic placement of these new ethanol refueling and biodiesel blending locations will increase the availability of alternative fuels throughout Ohio and serve as a catalyst for future retail and wholesale growth.”

The Alternative Fuel Transportation Grant Program was developed following the success of the Ohio Biofuels Retail Incentive Program, a pilot initiative, which provided \$300,000 for the development of retail E85-ethanol and B20 biodiesel. Clean Fuels Ohio administered this pilot program for the State.

“This grant program is exactly what Ohio consumers and businesses need,” remarked Sam Spofforth, Executive Director of Clean Fuels Ohio. “By targeting underserved areas such as Southern Ohio and areas with high concentrations of flex fuel vehicles, such as Northeast Ohio, more Ohio drivers will have a cleaner, American fuel choice when they travel. By

promoting the development of alternative fuels, we are promoting Ohio's economy, cleaner air, and energy security.”

The 12 new grant recipients include nine Speedway stations located in Columbus, Fairborn, Kettering, Wadsworth, Garfield Heights, Springfield, Mt. Healthy and Macedonia, with each location receiving \$20,000 in grant assistance. Additional grants were awarded to the Francis Group's Sunoco station located in Parma, receiving a \$15,000 grant; Glockner Oil station of Portsmouth and Village Farm's station located in Sylvania each received \$20,000 in grant funding.

Two \$180,000 grants were also awarded for the development of the biodiesel blending facilities. American Ag Fuels, of Defiance, will be adding a facility in Dayton, and Clean Fuels Ohio member Circleville Oil also received a grant for the enhancement of their biodiesel blending facility in Circleville.

“We are happy with the State's decision to help us provide for this unfulfilled niche,” said Gary Scherer, CEO of Circleville Oil and Clean Fuels Ohio Board member. “Our goal is to provide high quality biodiesel blends to end users and other local fuel marketers in order to advance alternative fuels in the market.”

Upon completion of the project, Circleville Oil will be able to provide any blend of biodiesel from 1% to 100% depending on the specific needs and demands of their customers, added Scherer.

The Alternative Fuels Transportation grants were awarded on a competitive basis by the Office of Energy Efficiency at the Ohio Department of Development. ODOD will issue a new Notice of Funds in later April 2007 that will encourage the development of more retail alternative fuel locations in Ohio. For more information on this program, please contact Clean Fuels Ohio at (614) 292-5443 or the Office of Energy Efficiency.

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