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SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL
ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUNDING

MEMORANDUM

OK FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO: Texas House of Representatives

FROM: Chairman Jim Dunnam

DATE: March 19, 2010

SUBJECT: Texas Unemployment Rate, Renewable Energy Technology Program, Eureka!
Program and Subcommittee Appointments

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Dunnam", written over a horizontal line.

Texas Unemployment Rate Stands at 8.2% for January 2010

The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 8.2 percent in January, unchanged from a revised 8.2 percent in December 2009., and continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.7 percent. The Texas Civilian Labor Force continued to grow in January, reaching its highest level ever at 12.1 million workers.

In January, the Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 6.0 percent (not seasonally adjusted), followed by the Lubbock MSA and the Midland MSA, both with 6.2 percent. The unemployment rate stood at 6.4 percent in the College Station-Bryan MSA.

**Distributed Renewable Energy Technology Program First Round Grants
Announced**

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced on March 16, 2010, 32 renewable energy projects around the state have been selected to receive a first round of federal stimulus grants as part of the Distributed Renewable Energy Technology Program. Approximately \$32 million will go to cities, school districts, colleges, and universities and other local and state government entities in the first round of grants. More applications are currently undergoing federal National Environmental Policy Act review. Recipients will use the grants to install renewable energy infrastructure at public facilities to generate electricity at those sites, reduce utility costs and save tax dollars. The projects will also

increase the amount of installed renewable energy projects in Texas, which would reduce the demand on power plants and cut emissions from the plants.

Award Amounts Governmental Entities

St Philips College - San Antonio	\$2,000,000
Carroll Independent School District	\$2,000,000
University of Texas - Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
City of Bedford - Public Library	\$1,998,800
The University of Texas at Arlington	\$1,832,000
Grapevine - Colleyville Independent School District	\$1,727,226
The County of Cameron - Harlingen, San Benito, Brownsville	\$1,713,326
Austin Community College (ACC) - Austin	\$1,594,370
Texas Southmost College (TSC) - Harlingen	\$1,526,475
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Region II	\$1,320,326
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Region I	\$1,301,501
The City of Irving - Irving Public Library	\$1,158,316
The City of Duncanville	\$1,121,208
University of Texas - San Antonio	\$1,080,000
Texas State Technical College - Waco	\$978,226
City of Grand Prairie	\$872,809
Hopkins County - Sulphur Springs	\$827,883
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Austin Headquarters	\$821,286
Adjutant General's Department of Texas Military Forces at Camp Mabry Austin	\$799,939
The University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio	\$794,121
Hutto Independent School District - Hutto	\$617,927
Shallowater Independent School District	\$476,800
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Region III	\$455,203
The City of San Antonio	\$433,000
Texas State Technical College - Harlingen	\$431,000
The City of Alpine	\$419,600
The City of Horseshoe Bay	\$311,397
University of North Texas - Dallas	\$260,500

Munday Independent School District - Munday	\$249,117
City of Henrietta	\$249,117
Fort Worth ISD	\$143,074
The City of Sunset Valley - Austin area	\$95,000

To find out more about this program or to download an application for the next round of grants please visit the Comptrollers' website at:

<http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/arra/sep/renewable/>

Eureka! Award Program

The Eureka! Award Program provides grants to help small businesses promote innovative products and technologies for energy efficiency and renewable energy in Texas. It is part of the Public Education and Outreach project within SECO's State Energy Program (SEP). Eureka! Awards will support the best of the best when it comes to contributing to the cost competitiveness of energy efficiency or renewable energy in Texas, reducing the state's use of fossil-fuel energy, and reducing reliance on imported energy.

How it will work: The Eureka! Award Program will partner with Texas universities and non-profit organizations to identify and support innovators with new energy products and technologies. The program will not sponsor research and development but instead will provide grants for up to \$50,000 for small businesses to promote new energy-efficient products or technologies that are both ready for market and commercially available.

Eureka! grants will increase consumer awareness in emerging technologies and ultimately boost energy conservation efforts in Texas.

Who can apply: Applicants must be a small business as identified in Texas Government Code Section 2006.001 – a legal entity that is formed for the purpose of making a profit, is independently owned and operated, and has fewer than 100 employees or less than \$6 million in annual gross receipts. Applicants must also be physically located in Texas or have their principal place of business in Texas.

What products or technologies are eligible: The product or technology must have an energy efficient or renewable energy component. We will evaluate the potential of the product or technology to:

- contribute to the cost-competitiveness of energy efficiency or renewable energy in Texas;
- reduce the use of fossil-fuel energy in Texas; and/or
- reduce reliance on imported energy.

Timing: We will start accepting applications in late summer/early fall 2010. The first Eureka! Award recipients will be announced in December 2010. We are NOT currently accepting applications.

To learn more about the Eureka! Program please visit the Comptrollers' website at:

<http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/arra/sep/outreach/eureka.php>

Chairman Dunnam Appoints Subcommittees on Education, Energy and Transportation

As part of the work of the House Select Committee on Federal Economic Stabilization Funding, Chairman Jim Dunnam announced the formation of three subcommittees yesterday, March 18, 2010, to more tightly focus oversight on Stimulus expenditures in the areas of Education, Energy and Transportation.

Representative Carol Kent of Dallas will chair the Education Subcommittee, which will include Representatives Garnet Coleman of Houston and Vicki Truitt of Keller.

Representative Solomon Ortiz, Jr. of Corpus Christi will chair the Energy Subcommittee along with members Jim Pitts of Waxahachie and Craig Eiland of Galveston.

The Transportation Subcommittee will be chaired by Representative Drew Darby of San Angelo, and include Representatives Kent and Myra Crownover of Denton.

Each subcommittee will offer closer oversight and monitoring of the use and effectiveness of all ARRA funds related to their individual focus areas, which constitute the bulk of Stimulus dollars. In addition, subcommittees will work with other standing House committees to prepare interim reports where joint charges exist.