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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2015

Gov. Shumlin Celebrates Campaign to Increase Electric Vehicle Use in Vermont

Twenty-one Vermont employers join the DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT initiative

SHELBURNE – Today, Gov. Peter Shumlin joined Drive Electric Vermont in celebrating the launch of *DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT*, a campaign to increase the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in the State. As part of the campaign, a diverse group of leading Vermont employers, including businesses, hospitals, and schools met with Governor Shumlin at Vermont Teddy Bear Company in Shelburne, VT to announce their commitments to advance EVs in Vermont.

The *DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT* campaign will spur the growth of EVs by asking participating businesses to commit to installing new EV chargers for employees in the workplace; increasing the number of EVs in corporate fleets; and/or providing workplace incentives to encourage employees to purchase or lease EVs. For example, employers such as Vermont Foodbank, Sun Common, Northwestern Medical Center and many more are committing to add EV chargers for their employees.

“In Vermont, our businesses are so often at the forefront of our efforts to build a clean energy economy that will benefit all Vermonters,” said Governor Shumlin. “The business leaders joining this campaign are making investments that will encourage more Vermonters to buy and lease electric vehicles, and adding more EVs to our roads will reduce our carbon pollution, improve air quality and enhance our economy and energy independence by sending fewer dollars out of state to import fossil fuels.”

According to the US Department of Energy, employees with access to workplace charging are 20 times more likely to have an EV. The twenty-one business leaders who are joining the *DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT* campaign are collectively pledging to install 50 ports for EV users to use in charging their vehicles, adding two new EVs to corporate fleets, and offering six incentive programs to encourage employees to buy or lease an EV and take full advantage of the fuel and maintenance savings that they offer.

“In our state, the combustion of gasoline and other transportation fuels produces almost 50% of our total greenhouse gas emissions,” said Deb Markowitz, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. “That’s why our state’s Energy Plan places a heavy emphasis on increasing the use of electric vehicles, which can be powered by renewable energy. Business leaders can help us achieve this goal by creating EV-friendly workplaces that will accelerate sales of clean electric vehicles.”

“We were thrilled to host this event and join Drive Electric Vermont in their ongoing efforts to support EV adoption in Vermont,” said Bill Shouldice, CEO of Vermont Teddy Bear Company. “In this era of fluctuating oil prices and heightened concerns about the environment, we believe our employees and our customers will really appreciate having access to a charging station that makes using an EV practical and convenient.”

Vermont’s transportation sector is currently 95% fueled by petroleum. Supporting a strong and rapidly expanding market for plug in and all electric vehicles is a major focus of the Administration, which published a Vermont Zero Emissions Vehicle Action Plan last year. As the state progresses towards getting more energy from clean, renewably generated electricity, Vermont will yield even greater reductions in greenhouse gas emissions because EVs have virtually zero emissions when powered by renewable resources such as solar power.

“We are excited to be a part of the DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT initiative to provide our employees with another great opportunity to reduce their carbon footprint,” said Rob Miller, CEO of VSECU. “We are committed to helping our employees and member-owners make environmentally sustainable decisions and this pledge supports that mission.

Local organizing partners for the *DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT* event included the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition, the State of Vermont, NESCAUM, Green Mountain Power and Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.

Following the celebration of the *DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT* campaign, Vermont Teddy Bear Company hosted a public ride-and-drive event organized by Drive Electric Vermont in celebration of National Drive Electric Week. Local EV owners and auto dealers had the latest vehicle models on display and offered test rides and drives to Vermonters interested in learning more about EV technology. This Vermont celebration was one of more than 150 events taking place across the country this week.

To learn more about DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT visit:
www.DriveElectricVT.com/events/drive-the-dream

Drive Electric Vermont is a public-private partnership dedicated to promoting the spread of electrified transportation in the state. Coordinated by the nonprofit Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, the stakeholder group is transforming the vehicle marketplace through policy initiatives, charging infrastructure development, education and ongoing coordination to support consumer and business adoption of electric vehicles.

Attached find a list of business that have signed onto the DRIVE THE DREAM campaign.

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DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT

Employer Investments in Plug-in Electric Vehicles

Ben and Jerry's Homemade Inc.
Black River Produce
Bourne's Energy
The Burton Corporation
Castleton State College
Champlain College
Green Mountain Power
Green Mountain College
King Arthur Flour
Middlebury College
Northwestern Medical Center
Rutland Regional Medical Center
Sun Common
University of Vermont
University of Vermont Medical Center
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
VELCO
Vermont Food Bank
Vermont Technical College
Vermont Teddy Bear Company
Vermont State Employees Credit Union



DRIVE THE DREAM VERMONT is organized by Drive Electric Vermont in partnership with the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition, Green Mountain Power, NESCAUM, and the State of Vermont.