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East Texans Named to FutureGen Texas Advisory Board

LONGVIEW ~ Commissioner Michael Williams today named Bill Maxwell of Kilgore and Mayor Ed Smith of Marshall to the FutureGen Texas Advisory Board. “I commend Commissioner Williams for his selection of Bill Maxwell and Mayor Smith. Bill and Mayor Smith’s extensive knowledge and vast experience in the energy field will be a valuable resource to the Board. I am particularly proud to have a member on the board from my hometown and confident Bill will represent East Texas with the utmost integrity and principles” stated Representative Tommy Merritt.

Elected officials, civic citizens, and industry leaders will meet Thursday in Marshall to outline plans for drawing the \$1 billion FutureGen near-zero emission fossil fuel energy facility to Texas. Merritt will aggressively pursue a site in East Texas for FutureGen. Merritt commented, “This is an exciting prospect for not only Texas, but East Texas in particular. FutureGen and the East Texas Oil Field go hand-in-hand.”

Since Merritt’s first term in office he has championed the study of the East Texas Oil Field to recover the remaining 600 million barrels of oil. The FutureGen project will provide a tremendous proving ground in the area of CO₂ sequestration in the East Texas Oil Field, while providing a more clean and efficient means to provide low-cost electricity. In the late 1990s, Dr. William Fisher, former Bureau of Economic Geology Director, proposed using CO₂ emissions from coal-fired facilities to enhance oil recovery in the East Texas Oil Field.

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