

Remarks on June 1, 2004 at the North Texas Clean Air Coalition kick off the Best Workplaces for Commuters Campaign.

Richard E. Greene

On behalf of the U-S EPA, I would like to congratulate the North Texas Clean Air Coalition on its efforts to bring cleaner air to the people of this region.

Commute Solutions Month, and now the **Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** program, are just two examples of how you're improving the quality of life for commuters in this region.

For too many of us in the country and this region, the daily commute has become so time-consuming and stressful it's like a second job. And all the traffic congestion is damaging our air quality.

In 2003 there were 2.4 million registered passenger cars in the D/FW metroplex area. (This figure represents cars only, trucks and motorcycles would add another one million vehicles to the total.) The average vehicle miles traveled per day exceeded 166 million miles. Of this total only 808,986 miles are traveled in the HOV lanes. That means that 99.5% of the traffic is from single occupant vehicles.

Some forward thinking organizations in our area have found a better way to get their work done while cutting air pollution and decreasing the use of fuel. That's why I am thrilled to be here with Texas Instruments and the City of Richardson to challenge other companies and organizations to follow their lead by qualifying as **Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**.

Best Workplaces for CommutersSM began in 2002. Today, more than 800 employers in 30 states are qualified as **Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**. They qualify by meeting a national standard of excellence for traffic-reducing commuter benefits. These 800 qualifying companies range from the largest Fortune 500 companies to a small shoe store and record shop. Not only are we launching this new program today, we're announcing two North Texas employers have been approved to be on the first-ever **North Texas' Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** list.

I'm pleased to announce the City of Richardson is the first public sector organization to qualify for **North Texas' Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** list. If Chairman Lampe would assist me, I'd like to present Richardson Mayor Gary Slagel with a certificate.

And our host, Texas Instruments, is the first North Texas company to qualify. T-I's Brenda Harrison will tell you how they did it in just a second.

A complete list will be published in the fall. We're excited to find out which North Texas employers will make the grade and join the distinguished companies already on the list.

In just a minute, other North Texas employers will step forward and begin the enrollment process.

When you hear some of the things the City of Richardson and T-I offer their employees, I think you'll understand why these employers are perfect candidates for the first-ever North Texas **Best Workplaces for Commuters**SM list.

Thank you.