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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**OFFICE OF
ENERGY RESOURCES**

State Announces New Electric Vehicle Incentive Program

\$200,000 Available to Expand EVs, Reduce Transportation Sector Emissions in Rhode Island

Providence, R.I., – United States Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and representatives of the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office today joined with the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) at the 2016 Northeast International Auto Show in the Rhode Island Convention Center to announce the availability of \$200,000 in incentives for Rhode Island residents that purchase or lease a new electric vehicle (EV) from a licensed Rhode Island franchised automobile dealer.

“As Governor, it is my job to find ways we can lead by example and encourage others to the same,” Governor Gina M. Raimondo said. “The DRIVE program will increase the adoption and deployment of electric vehicles across Rhode Island roadways and help reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions from our transportation sector. These rebates make it more affordable for Rhode Islanders to purchase or lease a new electric vehicle, and further our mission to promote clean energy alternatives, shrink our carbon footprint and protect the environment.”

“Encouraging the switch to electric vehicles is a smart move for drivers, our environment, and the Rhode Island economy. Replacing gasoline-powered cars with EV will reduce harmful emissions and save consumers on fuel. It’ll also provide a boost to Rhode Island car dealers. That’s a win-win-win,” said Senator Whitehouse. “Thank you to Governor Raimondo, Attorney General Kilmartin, and Commissioner Gold for spearheading this effort.”

The program, Driving Rhode Island to Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE), will be administered by OER with the goal of spurring the adoption of electric vehicles by Ocean State drivers. Through a partnership between OER and the Attorney General’s Office, a total of \$200,000 in funding will be available to qualified Rhode Island consumers on a first-come, first-served basis. Qualified applicants will be eligible for up to \$2,500 in a direct consumer rebate tied to the purchase or lease of an eligible new electric vehicle and based on vehicle battery capacity.

“As a state, we have made a commitment to reduce our carbon and air pollution footprint. DRIVE is a perfect example of state agencies collaborating to develop an innovative program to incentivize consumers to consider more energy conscious choices when purchasing a vehicle,” said Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin. “I applaud the Office of Energy Resources for thinking outside the box to create this program and I am pleased to support their efforts with an AEP grant.”

The grant from the Attorney General's Office stems from a 2007 consent decree, which resolved a lawsuit brought by Rhode Island, other states, and the federal government against American Electric Power Service Corporation (AEP). Under the court order, AEP paid a \$15 million penalty and committed \$60 million to perform or finance pro-environmental projects, of which \$24 million was distributed to eight states to fund pollution reduction, renewable energy, green building, and other environmental projects. In Rhode Island, the Attorney General's Office is charged with selecting projects to fund.

“The Office of Energy Resources is excited to announce Rhode Island's first electric vehicle incentive program,” said State Energy Commissioner Marion Gold. “The transportation sector accounts for 40 percent of total statewide energy expenditures, contributing 4.5 million tons of CO² into the atmosphere annually. The DRIVE program provides an incentive for local drivers to adopt this new technology as we pursue our goal of increasing the number of electric vehicles on Rhode Island roads and to help reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. We are happy to make this incentive program available to Ocean State consumers looking to purchase or lease a new electric vehicle.”

Vehicles must be listed on OER's DRIVE Eligible Vehicle List at the time of purchase or lease to be eligible for a rebate. The purchase or lease must be executed on or after the program start date of January 29, 2016. Qualified electric vehicles must be new, constructed of new parts that have never been the subject of a retail sale and registered with the Rhode Island Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). All applications are subject to review and approval by OER. For more information on the DRIVE program, please visit: www.drive.ri.gov.

About the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) is the lead state agency on energy policy and programs. OER's mission is to lead Rhode Island to a secure, cost-effective, and sustainable energy future. OER works closely with private and public stakeholders to increase the reliability and security of our energy supply, reduce energy costs and mitigate price volatility, and improve environmental quality. www.energy.ri.gov