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**PRESS RELEASE – TEXALTEL Congratulates Barry Smitherman on Elevation to
Chairman of the Public Utility Commission of Texas**

TEXALTEL congratulates Barry Smitherman on his elevation to Chairman of the Public Utility Commission of Texas by Governor Perry. Chairman Smitherman has been a Commissioner of the Public Utility Commission of Texas since 2004.

In recognition of this elevation, TEXALTEL Executive Director Charles Land stated, “On behalf of TEXALTEL and its member companies, I look forward to working with Chairman Smitherman to assure that markets remain open to competition for the betterment of Texas customers. I am hopeful that the Commission will continue to work with our association and its members to assure that the competitive climate becomes more robust in order to have sufficient competition to regulate competition going forward. ”

TEXALTEL is a trade association of over 20 competitive telecommunications companies and suppliers doing business in Texas.