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Rep. Taylor Announces WNC Office of Technology Transfer

WASHINGTON, DC – Western North Carolina Representative Charles Taylor announced today that \$340,000 has been appropriated from the U.S. Department of Energy to establish the Western North Carolina Office of Technology Transfer. The office will serve as a catalyst for job creation by connecting ideas and intellectual property with people and organizations that can commercialize those resources. The Western North Carolina Office of Technology Transfer will serve educational institutions, businesses, inventors and entrepreneurs in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District.

"I believe this will be a catalyst for significant economic growth in Western North Carolina," said Congressman Taylor. "This project is a vehicle for connecting ideas with businesses and people who can turn those ideas into jobs. It will bring new companies to the District, and allow businesses that are already here to create new divisions, increasing job opportunities for the region even more."

The technology transfer and commercialization efforts will:

- Serve business by commercializing Oak Ridge National Laboratory energy-efficient technologies and by seeking new innovations to provide economic opportunities to companies in the region.
- Serve higher educational institutions and research universities, by assisting in the identification of intellectual property management and commercialization opportunities. The project will also promote the integration of entrepreneurship into the curriculum of the District's K-12 schools.
- Serve inventors and entrepreneurs from across the region by providing assistance in technology, market assessment and business planning, as well as creating a team of experienced mentors to assist promising ventures.
- Serve existing businesses in the region by providing links to technology resources and experience that are not currently available.

Education and Research Services, Inc. will oversee the Technology Transfer initiative. The Institute at Biltmore will manage the office, in partnership with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Spiro Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at Clemson University.

An early focus for the project will be on translating energy conservation and efficiency technologies into marketable products and services. The Western North Carolina Office of Technology Transfer will develop the required assessment tools for the project, and serve as primary liaison between entrepreneurs, inventors and research universities.

For more information, contact the Institute at Biltmore at 828-277-1202 or visit www.strategicplan.org.