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“How Much is Too Much” Study Highlights America’s Gas Addiction

38 Percent will Pay “Anything” for Gas – Interest in Cures at All Time High

ALEXANDRIA, Va., June 10, 2008 – Telework ExchangeSM, a public-private partnership focused on promoting and expanding telework options, today announced the results of the “How Much is Too Much – America’s Addiction to Gasoline and Its Impact on the Workforce” study. While few are ready to go cold turkey – 38 percent note that they will pay anything for gas – Americans are clearly focused on reducing their daily dosage – 78 percent have changed their lifestyles to reduce their dependence on gas. The study examines Americans’ commuting habits and the steps employees are taking to alleviate the effects of continually rising gas prices.

“With gas prices soaring, we need to explore pragmatic and innovative alternatives to the typical modes of commuting,” said Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD). “Telework is a win-win opportunity for our Federal government. By expanding telework, we can better compete with the private sector to attract the best and brightest to Federal service and help Federal workers strike a better work/family balance. With gas pushing \$4 a gallon, our efforts to pass legislation expanding telework are gaining steam.”

Key study findings include:

- **Strong Addiction:** Annually, 38 percent will pay anything. Eighty-four percent of Americans rely on their own transportation to get to and from work, on average spending \$2,052 on gas and 264 hours on their commute annually

- **Changing Behaviors:** Seventy-eight percent of Americans are making lifestyle changes including taking fewer car trips, consolidating errands, and eating out less frequently
- **Recruitment and Retention Challenge:** Rising fuel costs are influencing job choices – 89 percent of respondents say that they would limit a job search due to potential commuting costs. Twenty-eight percent are currently looking for new jobs to reduce commuting costs
- **Telework – The Other Fuel:** While 92 percent of respondents believe that their job could be done from home via telework, only 39 percent currently telework. If the deficit – 53 percent – of white-collar employees could telework two days a week, they could collectively save 9.7 billion gallons of gas and \$38.2 billion a year. Ninety-five percent of respondents noted interest in teleworking to reduce commuting costs

Telework Exchange recently updated its telework-value calculators to reflect the most recent national gas price averages. The Telework Exchange value calculators tally the potential cost savings and environmental benefits associated with telework. The calculators empower employees to understand their personal cost of commuting – as a raw figure and a percentage of after-tax income – as well as to understand how many tons of pollutants they are pumping into the environment each day as they travel to and from work. The telework-value calculators are available at www.teleworkexchange.com.

“Americans are not seeing an end to rising gasoline prices,” said Cindy Auten, general manager, Telework Exchange. “As we reach the \$4 gallon of gas, Americans must turn to alternative methods, such as telework, to cut costs. In addition, employers need to consider offering telework programs and other incentives to retain current employees and recruit new staff members.”

“How Much Is Too Much – America’s Addiction to Gasoline and Its Impact on the Workforce” study is based on a survey with Telework Exchange registrants, that occurred from May 1-3, 2008. One hundred percent of the respondents are full-time employees and 39 percent are teleworkers. To download the full study results, please visit www.teleworkexchange.com/gasaddiction.

About Telework Exchange, LLC

Telework Exchange is a public-private partnership focused on demonstrating the tangible value of telework and serving the emerging educational and communication requirements of the Federal teleworker community. The organization facilitates communication among Federal teleworkers, telework managers, and IT professionals. For more information on Telework Exchange, please visit www.teleworkexchange.com.