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CONTACT: Kevin Lawlor, 202/225-1880

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Washington - This week The Association for Commuter Transportation presented Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher with its 2008 Legislator of the Year Award.

"It' an honor to receive this award and to be recognized on behalf of the commuters both in my district and across the country," said Rep. Ellen Tauscher. Commuting isn't just about getting to and from work; it's about how much time you spend with your family instead of on the roads, how much money you can save versus the cost of daily travel, and how much our daily routines are affecting the air quality of our communities. Good commuter policy is about finding safe, cost effective, and environmentally sound options for all types of commuters and I am committed to developing these strategies to make everyone's life a little easier."

Congresswoman Tauscher (D-CA), has championed and supported a variety of legislative initiatives which would provide a variety of options and relief from the 'pain at the pump'. In the 110th Congress, she has championed a provision which would make it easier for local communities to use federal resources to start and expand vanpool programs; in addition, she has supported legislation that would increase the cap on the monthly transit benefit and thus making transit riders with the most expensive trips eligible to utilize the transportation fringe benefit offered by local transit agencies in accordance with federal tax laws.

"Congresswoman Tauscher has been a champion and leader in working to provide commuters with options. Her commitment to expanding options for her constituent's and her dedication to improving the nation's transportation system should be recognized" said Jon Martz, President of ACT. "The price of getting to and from work is making it tough for many Americans to

make ends meet. One way Congress can provide immediate assistance is by promoting alternative transportation options such as carpooling, vanpooling, telework, and transit. There is not a silver bullet in fixing the problem of high gas prices, all options must be exercised, and Congresswoman Tauscher understands this and has led the way in many efforts which is one of the many reasons why she has been presented with this honor'.

Mark Wright, Executive

Director of ACT added, "In a time with \$4 dollar a gallon gas, and commute times increasing, we need to look at all available options. Congresswoman Tauscher and her staff have worked tirelessly towards this end and have been an example to other policy makers."