

# 'Green' tractor made in Longview draws attention of lawmakers

Hutchison, Gohmert visit local company



By MIKE ELSWICK

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Capacity of Texas took the word green to new heights Tuesday with the unveiling of an environmentally friendly version of a specialty truck with global market potential.

The event by the Longview-based Capacity drew a volley of officials, business people and dignitaries, including U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, and U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Tyler. Hutchison lauded the efforts of the design, engineering and production team that produced the first prototype pluggable hybrid terminal tractor.



Kevin Green/News-Journal Photo  
(ENLARGE)

Capacity of Texas President Phillip Ford gives a plant tour Tuesday to U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. Hutchison lauded a new hybrid truck made by the Longview company.

"As a nation, we're striving to become energy independent," Hutchison said. "You are leading the way, you're making it happen right here at Capacity of Texas in Longview."

Hutchison said she believes the Obama administration is on the wrong track with its energy policy.

"We need to work toward a sensible energy policy, not one that taxes our oil and natural gas industries more," she said. Hutchison said the United States needs to strive to control its own energy and manufacturing destiny.

While Texas has been a world leader in energy with its oil and gas industries in the past, she said the efforts of the staff of the Longview plant offer encouragement for the future.

"You are showing that Texas can be a leader in developing alternative sources of energy consumption and use in the future," she said. "I am proud to say that Capacity is the only American-owned and operated manufacturer of this kind of product in the world. And it's right here in Longview, Texas."

Hutchison said she hopes the technology will bring opportunities and job growth to the region. She and Gohmert toured the plant before making comments to employees and other guests Tuesday afternoon.

Gohmert called the innovation and technology uplifting.

"Efficiency and wise use of resources are critical roles that were achieved by the hard work and innovation of Capacity of Texas," he said. "Their hybrid electric tractor will not only significantly reduce harmful emissions, but could also reduce fuel costs by 90 percent, saving businesses valuable money that will help them stay competitive."

Gohmert said the efforts of Longview workers should help preserve and create more American jobs.

"I'm very grateful to Capacity of Texas and everyone involved in the creation of this hybrid tractor which has highlighted East Texas as a global leader in the development and utilization of alternative energy," Gohmert said. "It will be exciting to see what else this innovative company will do to improve our future."