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**For immediate release**

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## **Local sponsors help move Christmas tree from Arizona to Washington, D.C.**

Arizona Petroleum, Jim Click Automotive, Coulomb Technologies and Bookmans, all members of the Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition, are providing support to help transport the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree from Arizona to Washington, D.C.

This year's Christmas tree was harvested from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, headquartered in Springerville, Ariz., on Nov. 7 and will be transported to D.C. on a Southwest Industrial Rigging truck fueled by biodiesel. The 85-foot blue spruce will be presented to the U.S. Congress on Nov. 30.

Bookmans donated a Toyota Prius for the advance team to travel from Tucson to Washington, D.C. The other members each donated \$1,000 toward the effort.

"I'd like to thank our Coalition members for generously supporting this effort," said Colleen Crowninshield, Manager of the Clean Cities program, which is housed at Pima Association of Governments. To track the tree on its journey, please visit <http://capitolchristmastree2009.org/> for updates.

Southwest Industrial Rigging, an Arizona-based company since 1984, specializes in the delivery of heavy duty machinery and crane equipment,

"We are thrilled to be a part of history, and bringing biodiesel as the fuel of choice into that history," said Mike Monfred, Compliance Officer of Southwest Industrial Rigging in Phoenix.

"We are honored to be the first state to deliver the tree in a clean green manner," said Richard Davalos, Coordinator of the Capitol Christmas Tree. "We

*Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, air quality and water quality. Please visit [www.pagnet.org](http://www.pagnet.org) for more information.*

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are also honored to help promote reducing America's dependence on foreign oil."

The Tucson Regional Clean Cities Program at Pima Association of Governments, the National Biodiesel Foundation and Southwest Industrial Rigging will assist Arizona officials in plotting the route to Washington, D.C.

The route will allow for refueling with biodiesel and the public will be educated along the way about the benefits of biodiesel and the importance of reducing America's dependence on foreign oil.

"This is a great undertaking, and one that Arizona should be proud of," said Tom Verry, Executive Director of the National Biodiesel Foundation. "We are happy that renewable, cleaner burning biodiesel will be part of our Capitol's Christmas tradition."

Partners in the biodiesel promotion include the State of Arizona, Southwest Industrial Rigging, the National Biodiesel Foundation, and the Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition. If your organization would like to sponsor biodiesel along the journey, please contact Colleen Crowninshield at [ccrowninshield@pagnet.org](mailto:ccrowninshield@pagnet.org) or call (520) 792-1093.