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**For immediate release
January 14, 2010**

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Pickens Bails on Wind Project That Lacks Transmission

WASHINGTON, DC – WIRES President Paul McCoy today issued this statement in response to news that oilman and clean-energy booster T. Boone Pickens has shelved his plans for a massive wind-power project in Texas.

“This is further demonstration that, no matter how much money is invested to build wind and other renewable energy projects, it is essential to strengthen and expand the transmission that delivers their output to customers,” said McCoy, who also serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of Trans-Elect Development Company. **“WIRES and its friends in the renewable energy business, not to mention those who want more liquid wholesale power markets and reliable electric service, must redouble efforts to obtain public policy innovations that encourage investment in transmission that will facilitate projects like those Mr. Pickens has decided to abandon.”**

Pickens, in announcing his move on Wednesday, added that if Texas makes more investments in transmission lines to carry power from the remote wind farm to towns and cities, "We'll be back."

A full account of Pickens' move is available on The Wall Street Journal's Web site – http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704675104575001290675508802.html?mod=WSJ_WSJ_US_News_5

WIRES (Working group for Investment in Reliable and Economic electric Systems) is a non-profit trade association of transmission providers, customers, and equipment and service companies formed to promote investment in electric transmission and progressive State and Federal policies that advance energy markets, economic efficiency, and consumer and environmental benefits through development of electric power infrastructure. For more information, visit www.wiresgroup.com or contact Jim Hoecker at 202-639-6500.

