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PRESS RELEASE

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Hutto Economic Development Corporation Commissions Labor Availability Study

The Hutto Economic Development Corporation commissioned the Pathfinders group of Dallas, Texas to perform a comprehensive assessment of the Hutto area workforce. Completed in April 2008, the report will assist the Hutto Economic Development Corporation in marketing by providing valuable insight to those businesses considering locating in the area.

“To market any product, it is important to know and understand your product. The Hutto Economic Development Corporation’s product is the Hutto community and to a large degree its workforce. Understanding the nuances of our workforce will help the Hutto Economic Development Corporation develop target markets and respond effectively to firms considering Hutto as a viable business location,” said Scott Martinez, Hutto Economic Development Corporation Executive Director.

The assessment’s key findings indicate:

- The Hutto area, a 15-mile radius around the City of Hutto, has a household population of approximately 271,500 and a civilian labor force of approximately 148,100.
- In total, the Hutto area has approximately 24,800 available workers for new or expanding businesses.
- The desired pay rates of these underemployed workers are reasonable when compared to their existing pay rates. The median current pay rate of the underemployed workers is \$17.52 per hour, and the median desired pay rate of the underemployed workers is \$19.75 per hour.

- About 25% of the underemployed workers would take a new job for \$15.37 per hour or less. At the upper end, the 25% most qualified and experienced will command more than \$24.86 per hour.

The Pathfinders analysis depicts an experienced workforce with a wide array of skills. Information technology and electronics/engineering are two skill-sets in which the Hutto area has an abundance of underemployed workers when compared to similar locations across the nation.

During the research process, the Pathfinders interviewed local employers regarding their judgments of the Hutto area workforce. As a whole, employers provided a favorable assessment of their workers. Furthermore, employers with operations in other regions of the United States were asked to compare their experiences in those other areas with their experiences in the Hutto region. Of those employers who had operations elsewhere, 90% stated that their Hutto area operations were comparable to or better than the operations in other locations in terms of profitability and production. The Pathfinders conclude that this is indicative not only of good management but also of a productive workforce.

The full “Hutto, Texas Area Labor Availability Report” is available online at www.huttoedc.com.