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**East Harris County Manufacturers Association
Announces Appointment of its 2010 Chairman**

HOUSTON (February 16, 2010) – The East Harris County Manufacturers Association (<http://www.ehcma.org>), an organization made up of more than 130 chemical manufacturers, refiners and supporting distribution companies across East Harris County, has appointed James (Jim) Griffin to serve as its 2010 chairman.

For the past six years, Griffin has been a member of the East Harris County Manufacturers Association serving in numerous leadership positions. He also has served as a member of the organization's board since 2006. As Chairman, Griffin will work closely with local legislators and officials on issues that have a direct impact on how industry operates in East Harris County. He will also continue to ensure industry's communication and dialogue with the community-at-large in East Harris County. In 2009, Griffin played an integral part in working with the Port of Houston Authority to establish the Ship Channel Security District, another area that will receive significant focus in the coming year.

"We've had the privilege of working side-by-side with Jim for years in industry and through his involvement with the organization," says Aamir Farid, outgoing chairman, East Harris County Manufacturers Association. "We know that his commitment to industry and the community, as well as his intellect and experience will continue to propel our organization forward as industry faces uncertain times ahead. I am excited about the East Harris County Manufacturers Association's outlook under his well-guided direction."

Griffin is currently the site manager for Dianal America, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Rayon. He entered the petrochemical industry in 1981 as an associate engineer for the BF Goodrich chemical division following his master's degree studies at the University of Wisconsin. Since that time, he has held positions in engineering, technology, plant management and corporate leadership.

“I am honored to serve as this year’s chairman and am extremely optimistic about our success in 2010,” Griffin said. “Just as we have seen in recent years, industry still faces a tough road ahead in the recovery process. But, I am optimistic that the experience and talents that reside in our industry, the region, and our organization are just what we need to keep us headed in the right direction.”

Griffin’s additional priorities as chairman include the procurement of environmental safety and the continuation of community outreach through the *‘Making Good’* campaign, an initiative that launched in 2007 to help raise awareness of the benefits provided by the industry, such as economic stimulus and the production of thousands of essential products that are manufactured in East Harris County and distributed worldwide.

About East Harris Manufacturers Association

The East Harris County Manufacturers Association is a professional organization of more than 130 chemical manufacturers, refiners and supporting distribution companies dedicated to increasing jobs, meeting or exceeding environmental standards and providing a better quality of life for its fence-line communities and for Greater Houston.

Since its founding more than 25 years ago, the organization has grown into the largest network of its kind in the world. Member companies transform natural resources into the materials needed to make many essential consumer products such as cosmetics, gasoline, jet fuel, lubricants, pharmaceuticals, electronics, building supplies, household products, clothes, plastics, automobile parts and thousands of other everyday goods. The association also operates the **Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) Line (281-476-2237)**, a hotline available to the public that provides recorded updates about emergency situations in the area.

For more information, please visit www.ehcma.org.

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