CSG Policy Academy on Electric & Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Speaker Bios

**Thursday Afternoon Panelists**

**Tonia Buell**
Tonia Buell is Project Development and Communications Manager for Public-Private Partnerships at the Washington State Department of Transportation. Tonia supports a transportation program that seeks to form partnerships with the private sector for the advancement of innovative public projects, programs or policies. She manages Washington’s segment of the “West Coast Electric Highway,” a network of electric vehicle fast charging equipment along the state’s major highways. She also represents WSDOT for PEV-related efforts and is working on the state’s action plan to reach 50,000 PEVs by 2020. Tonia earned her Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University. She lives and works in Olympia, Washington.

**Gustavo Collantes**
Gustavo Collantes is Assistant Director for the University of California at Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy, where he is responsible for the area of transportation. His work on clean technology innovation over 15 years and four different continents included positions in academic institutions, state government and the private sector. Gustavo obtained his doctoral degree in Transportation Technology and Policy from UC Davis.

**Scott DeWees**
Scott DeWees co-manages the Western Washington Clean Cities Coalition, housed within the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. The Coalition is a U.S. Department of Energy initiative focused on reducing petroleum use in transportation. Across the nation, Clean Cities works with fleets and policy makers to provide information and resources to assist in the adoption of advanced vehicle technologies and alternative fuels. The local coalition has engaged in numerous activities to deploy EVs in Washington State ranging from authoring readiness-planning publications to funding the installation of several hundred EV chargers for on-road and non-road use.

**Darren Engle**
Darren Engle is the Director of Government Relations at Blue Star Gas, a propane sales and service company covering service areas in five western states. Darren worked with his father (an employee of Petrolane, one of the early pioneers of autogas vehicles in the U.S.) and learned to service and maintain those early systems. With Blue Star Gas for 24 years, Darren currently assists with Blue Star’s autogas program, promoting the use of the fuel.

**Ben Farrow**
Ben Farrow is the Manager of Electric and Gas Development for Puget Sound Energy. His responsibilities include electricity and natural gas use in transportation, as well as core customers in residential, commercial, and industrial markets. PSE has recently received approval for a pilot program for residential EV charging and a compressed natural gas service for customers and sees increasing customer interest in use of low emission, low cost electricity and natural gas in transportation. Mr. Farrow has previously held positions in PSE’s resource acquisition and power generation groups. He currently serves as the advisory board chair for
the Western Washington Clean Cities Coalition, a public-private partnership advancing use of alternative
technologies and fuels in transportation.

**Reema Griffith**

Reema Griffith is the Executive Director of the Washington State Transportation Commission and has been in
this position since 2005. In her role, she oversees the Commission’s work which includes: serving as the state
tolling authority for all highways and the ferry system; authoring the statewide 20-year transportation plan;
conducting public outreach and education on transportation issues; providing policy and fiscal guidance to the
State Legislature and Governor; and conducting special analytical studies. Past positions held by Reema
include serving as a senior policy and fiscal analyst to the State House and Senate Transportation Committees.

**Peter Moulton**

Peter Moulton is a Senior Energy Policy Specialist for the State Energy Office, located in the Washington
State Department of Commerce. As the state’s policy lead on bioenergy and adoption of alternative fuels
and vehicles by public fleets, he oversees interagency support for vehicle electrification, biofuels,
biopower and coproduct development through public policy, research and incentive programs. He also
facilitates public and private efforts to expand production, distribution and use of bioenergy, including
federal and state financial assistance. Prior to joining Commerce, Peter developed and coordinated
Climate Solutions’ Harvesting Clean Energy Program promoting rural economic development in the
Northwest region through clean energy production. His diverse background includes careers in
watershed management, environmental education, nonprofit management and media production.

**Timmy Nelson**

Timmy Nelson is Senior Vice President and Managing Director of State Government Affairs at UPS. His UPS
career began as a trailer unloader in 1977 while he was attending Muskegon Community College. He has held
numerous positions with the company in the states of Michigan, Ohio and New Jersey. In November of 2002
Timmy joined the UPS Public Affairs Group assuming responsibility for state government affairs activities for
five states, a number that eventually expanded to nine states. In January 2013 Timmy accepted an assignment
coordinating state level legislation impacting the placement of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure for
the United States. He began his current assignment in November of last year. Timmy earned his Bachelor of
Science in Human Resources from Geneva College, Center for Urban Theological Studies.

**Andrea Pratt**

Andrea Pratt is a Strategic Advisor and Green Fleet Coordinator for the City of Seattle. Andrea began her
career with the Fleet Management Division of the City in 2011 as a Data Analyst. Prior to working in the
public sector, Andrea worked in the private sector as an Environmental Chemist and Project Manager. Andrea
authored and published Seattle’s 2014 Green Fleet Action Plan, which calls for a 42 percent reduction in fleet
greenhouse gases by 2020. To this end, she is currently working to expand electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure
and EV deployment within Seattle’s fleet. Andrea is also involved in various stakeholder groups focusing on
policy related to EVs and other alternative fuel vehicles on a regional, state and national level.

**Kellen Schefter**

Kellen Schefter is Sustainable Technology Manager at Edison Electric Institute, where he helps electric
utilities implement programs that support the adoption of advanced, clean technologies. Kellen previously
worked at plug-in hybrid automaker Fisker Automotive and prior to that, the U.S. Department of Energy. Kellen has a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University.

**Tracy Woodard**

Tracy Woodard is the Director of Government Affairs for Nissan’s North American Operations. She advocates company positions on legislative and regulatory matters to internal and external stakeholders, including congressional members and staff, executive branch agencies and other public and private parties at the state and federal level. Woodard came to Nissan from the Nashville-based firm of Smith Johnson & Carr, where she worked as a lobbyist. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Tennessee. A native of Jefferson City, Tennessee, she now lives in Nashville, and her office is located at Nissan’s headquarters.

**Friday Morning Panelists**

**Max Baumhefner**

Max Baumhefner is an attorney on the Natural Resources Defense Council’s clean vehicles and fuels team in San Francisco. Since joining NRDC in 2010, he has focused on policies to accelerate the electrification of the transportation sector and to ensure the efficient integration of electric vehicles into the nation’s utility system. He holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Pomona College and a Juris Doctor from Boalt Hall at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Robert Bienenfeld**

Robert Bienenfeld is assistant vice president, Environment and Energy Strategy for American Honda’s Product Regulatory Office. Mr. Bienenfeld is responsible for policy (legislative proposals and regulatory rule making) as it relates to the automobile and its impact on the environment. In addition, Mr. Bienenfeld is responsible for recommending long-term strategies to address greenhouse gas, energy security and air quality issues. Prior to his current position, Mr. Bienenfeld was an Advisor to Honda’s Product Development Committee, and was responsible for Strategic Planning and Research. Mr. Bienenfeld led the launch of Honda’s first battery electric car, the 1997-9 EV PLUS, Honda’s first generation Civic natural-gas vehicle (1998), and the original Honda Insight (1999), the first hybrid vehicle sold in the U.S. A 30+ year Honda veteran, Bienenfeld spent 10 years marketing alternative fuel vehicles, and continues advising the company on alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure strategies. Mr. Bienenfeld is currently vice chair of the California Fuel Cell Partnership, is on the steering committee of the California Plug-In Electric Vehicle Collaborative, and is vice president of the California Hydrogen Business Council. Bienenfeld is a graduate of St. John’s College, Santa Fe, New Mexico and resides in Long Beach, California.

**Brian Geller**

Brian Geller is the Founder and Executive Director of the Seattle 2030 District, an interdisciplinary public-private collaborative working to create a groundbreaking high-performance building district in downtown Seattle. His career includes experience as a sustainability specialist and an architectural designer. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Skidmore College and a Master of Architecture from the Parsons School of Design.