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## **Craddick to Serve As ALEC 2010 National Chairman**

**November 30, 2009**

**(Washington, D.C.)** – Representative Tom Craddick (R-Midland, Texas), has officially taken office as the 2010 National Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) Board of Directors at ALEC's annual States & Nation Policy Summit will be held December 2-4, 2009, at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, 1000 H Street Northwest, Washington, D.C.

"I am honored by the members of ALEC naming me as the national chairman and will do my best to uphold ALEC's mission and vision of limited government, free markets, federalism, and individual liberty," Craddick said. "Speaker Howell has done a tremendous job and is to be commended for his leadership and service as ALEC's national chairman. Like him, I will work to unite public and private sector members in our common goals and continue to promote conservative policies through research, model legislation, and informative programs."

Craddick is a long-time member of ALEC and has served as the first vice chairman and the national secretary of the executive board of directors. Since becoming a member of the executive board of directors in 2004, he has crafted model legislation, much of which has gone on to influence laws in Texas. ALEC has seen a dramatic rise in membership recruitment in Texas, due in large part to Craddick's efforts, making it one of ALEC's strongest states.

In 2008, Craddick received the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) William J. Raggio Excellence in Leadership and Outstanding Service Award. The award is given to a leader who demonstrates a long-term commitment to serving others, while showing strong, small-government, Jeffersonian principles.

Craddick has been a member of the Texas House of Representatives since 1969. In 2003, he became the first republican speaker of the Texas House of Representatives in more than 130 years. During his tenure as speaker from January 2003 through January 2009, Craddick and the Legislature overcame a \$10 billion budget shortfall, produced model ethics, insurance, tort and transportation reforms, made historic cuts in property taxes, restructured public school finance, and added urgent improvements to Texas' public schools.

Craddick is a sales representative for Mustang Mud/Newpark Resource, an oilfield supply company, he owns Craddick Properties, a Midland investment business, and he is president of Craddick, Inc. He and his wife, Nadine, have two children and two grandchildren.

The ALEC Board of Directors selects the national chairman at its annual meeting each summer. The chairman takes office at the States & Nation Policy Summit in December and serves for one year.

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