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Harry Gregori Keynotes Virginia Recycling Association Annual Conference

Harry E. Gregori, Jr., Vice President, Environmental Solutions, Inc., opened the 2005 Virginia Recycling Association Conference held in Charlottesville, Virginia September 26-27, 2005. This year's conference theme, "Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future," brought together representatives of business and government, as well as individual citizens. Mr. Gregori welcomed conference participants and highlighted progress in recycling citing the critical 1989 legislation that mandated 25% recycling at the local government level. Virginia has met or exceeded that goal as a statewide average rate since 1993. In 2004, Virginia localities recycled almost 2.7 million tons of material. Virginia recycling has grown since the legislation was passed, stabilizing at 30.3% for 2003 (most recent year data is available). However, for the future Mr. Gregori noted that increasing demands from two major international competitors, China and India, will place greater demands on resources to meet growing needs, reducing available supplies of goods and services, and increasing costs. The demands for new resources, however, will, at the same time, create new opportunities to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and create increased opportunities for reuse and recycling.

Given the growing struggle for resources, Mr. Gregori introduced the concept of "sustainability," described as "meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations."

Mr. Gregori noted, "In order to maintain a competitive position and maximize the utilization of limited resources, we, as citizens, businesses, organizations, and government, need to refocus our efforts to address this global challenge for resources and create more opportunities for partnerships." Mr. Gregori identified several steps that Virginia can take to create a sustainable future which were outlined from the findings of the September 2005 Virginia's Sustainable Future Summit, two of which include: *The Commonwealth of Virginia should* (1) prepare a "Virginia Sustainable Development Plan" to implement sustainable practices across all sectors of the economy and government including source reduction, reuse and recycling; (2) undertake major educational programs to provide information to citizens, businesses and government organizations on preferable sustainable practices and ways to implement these practices including the procurement of goods and services and how to maximize their use and benefit. All initiatives are available at, <http://www.envirsol.com/companyoverview/news.php>.

Further, Mr. Gregori encouraged attendees to actively participate in the conference sessions and take lessons learned back to their communities and begin the process of forging partnerships with business, industry and government to create an environment that fosters greater levels of recycling.

About ESI: Since 1990, Environmental Solutions, Inc. (ESI) has dedicated itself to providing environmental solutions integrating innovative processes, state of the art technology, and economics. ESI offers training and consulting, as well as, project development and management, using the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) principals. In addition, the company markets green products created as a result of projects managed by ESI. Environmental Solutions, Inc. is a closely-held, woman-owned business headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. ESI's President, Brenda Robinson, has more than 15 years of experience in a Fortune 500 company and more than fifteen years experience with technology-based businesses and co-founded ESI with her late husband, W. W. "Phil" Robinson. ESI's solutions are applicable, successful, and repeatable, working within your unique organizational requirements. For additional information on how ESI can assist your organization in turning waste (by-products) from a liability into an opportunity, visit us online at www.envirsol.com or call 804.740.5605.