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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Associated Food Stores Exploring Alternative Fuels

Company Tests Two Tractors Using Liquid Natural Gas (LNG)

Salt Lake City, UT (May 6, 2011) – Starting in May 2011, Associated Food Stores will begin testing two tractors that use Liquid Natural Gas (LNG). By testing these tractors, the company intends to help grow the LNG infrastructure and the use of the diesel alternative (Clean Fuel).

“If successful, we hope to show a substantial financial benefit to our retailers,” said Glen Keysaw, executive director of transportation/logistics, Associated Food Stores. “We will run the two tractors out of our Farr West, Utah facility and deliver groceries between Logan and Payson, Utah. This will allow us to test the tractors pulling two trailer combinations and utilize it two shifts per day. Our hope is to run 120 thousand miles per year on each tractor.”

There are many benefits of running Liquid Natural Gas. It is environmentally friendly. With its closed methane-loop design it is clean burning and allows a reduced carbon footprint. It is anticipated the change will provide Associated Food Stores with alternative fuels and reduce its reliance on foreign oils. Liquid Natural Gas is also a lower cost.

“We anticipate a \$20,000 annual reduction in fuel cost per tractor using an average of \$3.50 per gallon diesel cost,” said Keysaw. “As diesel costs go up, the savings increase.”

The tractors being tested are Kenworth T800 day-cabs with a Cummins ISX 15 liter engine, the same motor the company uses in most of its 100 tractor private fleet. It has been modified by Westport to use LNG instead of diesel fuel.

“While there is some risk with any new technology, we feel it is important to look for ways to reduce our demand on foreign oil and reduce transportation costs to our retailers, said Keysaw. “The potential payoff is large and will allow us to evaluate the long-term viability of LNG for a large portion of our fleet.”

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Associated Food Stores is an independent retailer-owned warehouse based in Salt Lake City, Utah, which provides products and services to more than 500 grocers throughout the Intermountain West. Associated Food Stores can be found on the internet at www.afstores.com.

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