



Wilsbach Distributors, Inc. Awarded \$2 Million from State to Kick-Start Electric Vehicle Freight Fleet, Improve Air Quality in Central PA

For Immediate Release

Lower Swatara Township, Dauphin County – Wilsbach Distributors, Inc. (Wilsbach) was awarded a \$2,004,833 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to purchase electric freight trucks and help meet the company’s vision to achieve carbon neutrality.

Wilsbach — a 90-year-old Central Pennsylvania beverage distributor — will purchase five EV freight tractors and two best-in-class EV charging stations with the grant funds. The new trucks will permanently replace five existing diesel trucks, thereby reducing air pollution in DEP-designated Environmental Justice areas and serving vital retail partners in local communities, such as Carlisle, Harrisburg, Hershey, and Lebanon.

“We are very grateful for this opportunity to take another significant step in reducing our carbon footprint and serving our community,” Wilsbach President, Frank Sourbeer, Jr. said. “We are very thankful to Rep. Tom Mehaffie for advocating for this project and giving us his support.”

Wilsbach Distributors began privately funding its sustainability investments in 2019 as it designed its new facility located on Oberlin Road. In doing so, Wilsbach invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in electrical infrastructure to one day support EV charging stations. Now, Wilsbach is ready to purchase two level 3 DC fast chargers to support their new class 6 and class 8 EV trucks. Once the new trucks arrive and the chargers are installed, Wilsbach will permanently scrap five existing diesel trucks.

Over the last few years, Wilsbach invested \$1.8 million into a 100,000 square-foot rooftop solar array, which now entirely powers its new facility. It is planning to construct a second, larger ground-mounted solar array that will power its future EV fleet. Any excess electricity will be sold to PP&L, thereby reducing demand for greenhouse gas-emitting power plants.

“I was glad to support Wilsbach Distributors, a thriving business located in the 106th District, in their efforts to secure funding to improve air quality and reduce transportation emissions,” Mehaffie said.

Wilsbach is committed to researching additional opportunities to meet its carbon-neutrality goal. It has already leased 25 hybrid vehicles and one EV for its sales team and installed a level 2 charging station. Ultimately, the Wilsbach team would like to convert its entire diesel fleet to EVs,



but current limitations on EV ranges are not compatible with their longer-distance routes. In the meantime, Wilsbach will rely on new clean diesel vehicles to service these areas.

Sourbeer emphasized the importance of partnerships and public support for the success of Wilsbach's efforts. He thanked Gov. Josh Shapiro, DEP Interim Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley, the Borough of Carlisle, the Dauphin County Redevelopment Authority, the Lebanon County Planning Department, and the Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership for their strong support of the initiative.

DEP made these funds available pursuant to a settlement between the United States Department of Justice and Volkswagen. The DEP established the Medium- and Heavy-Duty (MHD) Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Grant Pilot Program to fund replacements of diesel-powered, class 6 to 8, on-road fleet vehicles with zero-emission fleet vehicles. The fundamental objective of this program is to demonstrate and verify MHD-ZEV's performance in real-world fleet applications. By demonstrating the benefits of owning and operating MHD-ZEVs, this Program will provide valuable insight to fleet owners/operators in Pennsylvania who may be considering ZEV replacements in their own fleets. In total, the DEP awarded \$39.6M to 16 worthy projects throughout Pennsylvania.

This investment will serve as a key element of an EV pilot program to demonstrate the efficacy of MHD EVs used in the commercial marketplace. Accordingly, Wilsbach will share data with DEP to support further development of EVs and charging systems throughout Pennsylvania.