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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center Premieres New Exhibition That Educates About Climate Change

Our Changing Earth *exhibit, presented by the Pitney Bowes Foundation, features opportunities to understand Earth's core, confront extreme conditions, and observe dramatic interactions between earth and humanity*

Hartford, CT (October 17, 2019) — The Connecticut Science Center this month opens a timely new and exclusive exhibition, *Our Changing Earth*. Coming as public interest is noticeably increasing – particularly among young people - regarding the immediate and long-term impact of climate change, the new exhibition explores the science driving change throughout Earth's history and looks ahead at what might happen next.

An array of new and enhanced exhibits will feature the most up-to-date scientific data and trends creating an immersive experience, focusing on earth science, its impact on humans, and the influence of humans on the environment. *Our Changing Earth,* sponsored by Pitney Bowes Foundation, is being unveiled during the Connecticut Science Center's 10th anniversary year.

"The Earth has been sculpted over hundreds of millions of years by powerful forces, including volcanoes, earthquakes, erosion, ice, floods, and storms," said Connecticut Science Center President and CEO Matt Fleury. "While some changes occur rapidly - even suddenly - others develop extremely slowly. There is no question that our environment is still changing today – and that humans have risen to the level of a geologic force influencing those changes. *Our Changing Earth* uses data to explain why, and how, in ways that will bring our world's story and our role in its future very close to home."

"We are pleased to support this exciting new center of learning at the Connecticut Science Center ; one that has been thoughtfully designed to engage students with innovative, engaging and effective learning approaches," said Kathleen Ryan Mufson, Director, Global Corporate Citizenship & Philanthropy, Pitney Bowes, and President of the Pitney Bowes Foundation.

Visitors to the new exhibit gallery will have an opportunity to explore:

- **Connecticut's changing landscape** and look back at the state's geological history from the Great Crunch of 500 million years ago to the Great Crack of 200 million years and on to the Ice Age, the present, and the future. The presentation includes contemporary landscapes shaped by volcanism and tectonics, storms, flooding, and global climate change.
- **Ice age glaciation that once covered Connecticut** — over a mile deep — in a giant simulated ledge of ice. Towering over visitors, this immersive experience will help visitors understand the correlation between global temperatures and ice flow. Visitors can also take a video tour of highway outcrops around the state where it is possible to see examples of rock formations representing different points in the geologic past.
- **An iconic journey to the center of the earth** inside a giant geodesic dome (complete with vibrating core). Visitors will discover the relative fragility of the Earth's life-bearing crust, and better understand magma flow, continental shift, and plate tectonics through augmented reality, hands-on tactile experiences, and interactive touchscreens.

- **Historical flood heights** on a scale version of the nearby Bulkeley Bridge in Hartford with an interactive exhibit on how the ebbs and flows of a tidal river work.
- The **impacts of our changing climate** in Connecticut on the Connecticut Science Center's GIS (Geographic Information System) - enabled touchscreen, which allows visitors to layer in unique risk data that can help predict the future impact of big storms on the coastline or the effect of rising temperatures on our state. The GIS software and risk datasets were provided by Pitney Bowes Software and Data, whose data and software experts assisted in the implementation of this engaging exhibit.

"We are delighted to collaborate with the Center on this exhibit. Our geospatial technology and data bring to life the experiential learning opportunities that benefit users of every age," said Bob Guidotti, President and EVP, Pitney Bowes Software & Data.

Science Center visitors can experience hurricane-force winds in the Hurricane Simulator, in which visitors enter an isolation chamber to feel the powerful force of a hurricane. They can also learn about technology's role in forecasting the weather by building and recording their own weather forecast, just like a real meteorologist, using real-time weather data in the *WFSB Early Warning Pinpoint Doppler Radar Exhibit*.

Earth's sometimes dramatic impacts on people are explored through the new American Red Cross preparedness section of the exhibition, showing critical supplies for the aftermath of a storm. This feature includes opportunities for photos and immersive play in the Rescue Scene with rescue and relief gear and a climb-in inflatable rescue craft.

Another feature – The Problem of Plastic – explains that plastic bottles can last 450 years in a landfill and examines the devastating effect plastic has on the ocean and its wildlife. The exhibit offers a visual representation to help visitors understand how each of us can make a difference. Supporting the Science Center's STEM Career Connections initiative, the entire exhibition will also provide insights into STEM Careers related to the changing conditions across the planet.

The new *Our Changing Earth* gallery, on Level 6 at the Science Center, is a top-to-bottom redesign of a previous gallery, introducing new, engaging exhibits highlighting various aspects of scientific discovery and highlighting key eras of change on the planet.

The exhibition will be a must-see attraction for families and individuals and a valuable resource for educators. *Our Changing Earth* offers school groups powerful coverage of geological, historical, environmental, and climate sciences. The experiential, minds-on learning processes embodied in the exhibition, and all Connecticut Science Center exhibitions and programs, align strongly with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in 2015.

About the Data Used in *Our Changing Earth*

Data used in the exhibit's GIS-enabled touchscreen was donated by the Pitney Bowes Software and Data. Three datasets - Coastal Risk, Flood Risk, and Historical Weather Risk - were combined to generate an interactive climate change experience related to Connecticut's environment. Coastal Risk data contains information pertinent to shorelines and coastal areas subject to hurricanes, storm surge, flooding, and other natural disasters. Flood Risk data provides the most current flood mapping and flood zone information, as well as elevation and proximity measurements. Historical Weather Risk data contains historical records of hazardous weather data including hurricanes, hail, tornadoes, and windstorm events, along with the date and the severity of the event.

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***About the Connecticut Science Center*:** The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving more than 3.25 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries, covering a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include the state's only year-round butterfly habitat, five educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages.

The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful professional development for educators. *More information: CTScienceCenter.org or (860) SCIENCE.*

About the Pitney Bowes Foundation: The Pitney Bowes Foundation is a private entity with a mission to support education and the diverse community interests of Pitney Bowes employees. We commit our resources to closing the opportunity gap and preparing the workforce of tomorrow. For information about these programs and other Pitney Bowes Corporate Citizenship and Philanthropy initiatives, please visit pb.com/community.

About Pitney Bowes: Pitney Bowes (NYSE:PBI) is a global technology company providing commerce solutions that power billions of transactions. Clients around the world, including 90 percent of the Fortune 500, rely on the accuracy and precision delivered by Pitney Bowes solutions, analytics, and APIs in the areas of ecommerce fulfillment, shipping and returns; cross-border ecommerce; office mailing and shipping; presort services; location data; customer information and engagement software; services; and financing. For nearly 100 years, Pitney Bowes has been innovating and delivering technologies that remove the complexity of getting commerce transactions precisely right. For additional information visit Pitney Bowes, the Craftsmen of Commerce, at www.pitneybowes.com.