



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact:
John Anthony
202.778.1639

Senator Merkley (D-Ore.) introduces job creation legislation spurring owners to retrofit buildings with energy efficient roofing, lighting, heating and cooling systems

Co-sponsored by Senators Brown, Cardin, Pryor, Sanders and Stabenow "Building STAR" proposal would put building trades back to work, boost manufacturing, deliver rebates and reduce needless pollution.

WASHINGTON – Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) introduced the “Building STAR Energy Efficiency Rebate Act of 2010” today, a bill designed to jumpstart manufacturing and get building trades back to work installing energy saving equipment in buildings, storefronts and multi-family homes across the country. “Building STAR” is a job-creation proposal supported by member organizations of *Rebuilding America*, a ground-breaking coalition of unions, contractor associations, manufacturers, financial services companies and energy efficiency advocates.

Rebates included in the bill would amount to \$6 billion, in order to stimulate \$18 to \$24 billion in total investment, resulting in more than 150,000 new jobs. These jobs will pay well, allow companies to rehire laid off workers and infuse sorely needed capital into small businesses and hard-hit communities across the country. The savings accrued by building owners and the profits earned by laborers and manufacturers will power even more economic growth.

“As we take action to put Americans back to work, we need to set our targets on programs that provide the biggest bang for our buck and set our economy up for future growth,” Senator Merkley said. “Clean energy is not only the next great growth industry, but it’s an engine for job creation today. Energy-efficiency programs like ‘Building STAR’ will put Americans to work in construction and manufacturing and save small businesses money as we strive for American energy independence.”

“With unemployment of 25% and higher, the construction industry is in dire need of a program to jumpstart high-quality construction jobs. Building STAR provides the right

incentives to get our men and women back to work rebuilding America in every state,” said John Lindemulder, president of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association. “Since more than 90% of the construction firms that will be undertaking Building STAR retrofits employ fewer than 20 people, this program will be a boon to small businesses around the country that have been hardest hit by the economic downturn.”

“Buildings represent 40 percent of the energy used in the United States, and many have old equipment that waste energy and money,” Senator Pryor said. “Investing in energy efficiency retrofits for industrial, commercial, and multi-family buildings can drive economic recovery by saving small businesses money, spurring construction and manufacturing, and creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs across America.”

"As the founder of a family-owned mechanical contracting firm with just 35 employees, I'm very excited about Building STAR," said Mark Rogers, owner, West Chester Mechanical Contractors.

"A program like this could help me hire back our workers, guys who are like family to me."

"Building STAR is a cost-effective way to create thousands of American jobs by helping make commercial buildings more energy efficient," said Real Estate Roundtable President and CEO Jeffrey DeBoer. "We offer our full support to Senator Merkley's bill, which provides an innovative solution to the challenge of job creation."

“Today, one in five construction workers – over 1.7 million people – are out of work. America’s buildings are wasting both energy and money. As the Senate considers a jobs agenda for 2010, it should incorporate policies that will drive wide-scale building retrofits, such as the Building STAR proposal, that create good local construction jobs and reduce energy costs,” said Reid Detchon, Executive Director of the Energy Future Coalition. “Building STAR is a package of rebates for energy efficient retrofits of commercial and multi-family residential buildings designed to create jobs and help small businesses nationwide.”

Building STAR would:

- **Create 25,000 jobs in 2010 for every \$1 billion of federal investment** for the hard-hit construction and building services, manufacturing, and distribution sectors. For a \$6 billion federal investment, for example, Building STAR would create at least 150,000 jobs.
- **Maximize federal investment, by leveraging \$2-3 in private investment for every federal dollar spent.** *Building STAR* would thus spur a total market activity of \$18 - \$24 billion, with a \$6 billion federal investment, making this a great model for a public-private partnership and maximizing resource efficacy.
- **Provide direct benefits to the thousands of small businesses,** including the 91 percent of commercial contractors that have fewer than 20 employees.
- **Use a simple application process** so that building owners can participate easily.

- **Work quickly**, because the rebate and incentive levels are established in legislation, rather than by agencies, making it possible to implement Building STAR immediately. In addition, this program is based on existing, already-proven utility rebate programs and tax incentives.
- **Deliver real energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions reductions**, because of the typically large size and scope of commercial and multi-family building retrofits. For example, such retrofits could save industry \$3.3 billion a year, based on data compiled by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy.

If you are interested in more information, or in speaking with a Building Star supporter, please contact John Anthony at janthony@unfoundation.org, or via phone at 202.778.1639. Additional information can be found on the Energy Future Coalition web site here: <http://www.energyfuturecoalition.org/content/Building-STAR>.

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BACKGROUND

Building STAR was developed by *Rebuilding America*, a coalition of more than 60 unions, contractor groups, manufacturers, financial services companies and efficiency advocates, in conjunction with a number of outside technical experts. Spearheaded by the Energy Future Coalition, *Rebuilding America* is comprehensive energy savings and jobs program to retrofit 50 million buildings by 2020, cutting buildings' energy use by 30 percent.

About the Energy Future Coalition

The Energy Future Coalition is a broad-based, nonpartisan alliance that seeks to bridge the differences among business, labor, and environmental groups and identify energy policy options with broad political support. The coalition aims to bring about changes in U.S. energy policy to address the economic, security and environmental challenges related to the production and use of fossil fuels with a compelling new vision of the economic opportunities that will be created by the transition to a new energy economy www.energyfuturecoalition.org.

BUILDING STAR SUPPORTERS

<p>The Rebuilding America Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. O. Smith Corporation • AFL-CIO • Allianz of America • American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy • American Institute of Architects • American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers • Apollo Alliance • Association for Facilities Engineering • Blue Green Alliance • Building & Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO • Capital Markets Partnership • Capital Markets Partnership on Green Building Underwriting Standards • Center for American Progress • Ceres • Change to Win • Conservation Services Group • Consumer Federation of America • Council of North American Insulation Manufacturers Association • Danfoss • Design-Build Institute of America • Digital Energy Solutions Campaign • DuPont • Eaton Corporation • Energy Future Coalition • Environmental and Energy Study Institute • Finishing Contractors • Green for All • Greenlink Alliance • Hannon Armstrong • HaydenTanner, LLC • HD Supply • HID Labs • Ingersoll Rand/Trane • Institute for Building Technology and Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute for Market Transformation • Intel • International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers • International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials • International Code Council • International Council of the Employers of Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers • Johns Manville • Johnson Controls • Jones Lang LaSalle • Knauf Insulation • Lime Energy • The Linc Group • Mechanical Contractors Association of America • National Association of Energy Service Companies • National Association of State Energy Officials • National Electrical Contractors Association • National Electrical Manufacturers Association • National Energy Management Institute • National Housing Trust • National Insulation Association • National Union Insulation Contractors Alliance Natural Resources Defense Council • Orion Energy Systems • Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association • Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association • The Potomac Energy Fund • Service Employees International Union • Service Employees International Union, Local 32BJ • Serious Materials, Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association • Sheet Metal Workers' International Association • ShoreBank • Siemens Corporation • The Stella Group, LTD • Sun Day Campaign • Sustainable Alternatives Consulting, Inc. • Turner Foundation • United States Green Building Council • United Technologies Corporation • Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute • Virginia Tech Energy Efficiency Partnership • Wider Opportunities for Women • Window and Door Manufacturers Association <p>Other Building STAR Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute • Alliance to Save Energy • American Architectural Manufacturers Association • Associated General Contractors of America • Association of State Energy and Technology Transfer Institutions • Building Owners and Managers Association • GridPoint • The Linc Group • Lockheed Martin • National Restaurant Association • National Roofing Contractors Association • National Union Insulation Contractors Alliance • The Real Estate Roundtable • Thermafiber, Inc. • United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers
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