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LABOR, BUSINESS LEADERS MEET WITH SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HARRY REID TO HIGHLIGHT LEGISLATION TO SPUR JOB GROWTH & BOOST ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Building STAR Proposal would create 1,500 good jobs in Nevada

LAS VEGAS, Nev. – As the national debate continues on creating American jobs and securing a clean energy future, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) joined today with business and labor groups to discuss Building STAR at an event at the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association's (SMWIA) Local Union #88. Building STAR is a job-creation proposal of rebates and financing provisions to quickly put people to work by conducting energy-efficiency retrofits to commercial buildings; **it would create nearly 3,500 energy-efficiency retrofits and more than 1,500 good jobs across Nevada.**

“It was a pleasure to meet with the sheet metal workers today to discuss the apprentice program that is putting Nevadans to work,” Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said. “Nevada has taken a lead in building a clean energy industry that diversifies our economy and creates permanent jobs for Nevadans. The Recovery Act created jobs to retrofit homes across the state, and I’ll continue to fight for legislation that will create jobs and expand Nevada’s clean energy industry.”

“Investing in energy-efficiency retrofits of commercial buildings can drive economic recovery by spurring construction and manufacturing and creating a lot of good jobs here in Nevada,” said Bob Roach, CEO of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) of Southern Nevada. “I support Building STAR because of its immediate economic and environmental impacts.”

The Building STAR program provides direct benefit to small businesses, including the 91 percent of commercial contractors that have fewer than 20 employees, and the retrofits would save consumers \$3.3 billion per year in energy costs by the end of 2011. Because of the wide range of benefits, the coalition of Building STAR supporters has rapidly grown to include more than 100 business, financial, consumer and energy efficiency entities.

“At a time when one out of every four of the nation’s skilled construction workers are sitting on the sidelines, leading real estate owners say they will put the Building STAR incentives to work right away to make their properties more energy-efficient,” said Reid Detchon, executive director of the Energy Future Coalition. “This is a jobs bill that will have an immediate impact in Nevada and across the country.”

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid discussed Building STAR at an event hosted by the *Rebuilding America* coalition, SMACNA and SMWIA. The event included a panel discussion about unemployment in the construction industry; the opportunity for training and commercial retrofits to create jobs; energy efficiency as a solution to economic recovery; and Building STAR legislation in both the U.S. House and Senate.

Building STAR was introduced in March as S. 3079, the “Building STAR Energy Efficiency Rebate Act of 2010.” With \$6 billion in federal spending, Building STAR would spur \$18 to \$24 billion in total investment, providing a model for public-private partnerships and maximizing the impact on jobs and the economy. For more information about Building STAR, please visit www.rebuildingamerica.org.