



Media Advisory for Immediate Release
July 15, 2010

Contact: John Anthony, 202-778-1639
janthony@energyfuturecoalition.org

Michigan Labor and Business Leaders Point to Benefits of Energy Efficiency

Groups will highlight Building STAR initiative, which would create 150,000-200,000 jobs nationwide – including thousands of quality jobs in Michigan – boost manufacturing, deliver consumer savings, and reduce pollution.

DETROIT, Michigan – On Friday, July 16, labor and business leaders from across the state will host an event to discuss federal legislation known as Building STAR, a job-creation proposal that consists of rebates and financing provisions to quickly put people to work conducting energy efficient retrofits of commercial buildings. Building STAR is supported by a broad-based coalition of more than 100 businesses, contractor associations, manufacturers, financial services companies, labor unions and energy-efficiency advocates.

Building STAR, cosponsored in the Senate by Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow, would create 150,000-200,000 quality jobs nationally over the next 18 months, providing direct benefits to thousands of companies and small businesses, including the 91 percent of commercial contractors that have fewer than 20 employees. It would also directly affect the hard-hit construction and building services, manufacturing and distribution sectors of the economy. In addition to the national benefits, **Building STAR could improve the efficiency of nearly 13,000 buildings and create 5,748 good jobs in Michigan.**

WHO: **Debbie Stabenow**, U.S. Senator from Michigan (Invited)
Barb McCallahan, Regional Manager and Director of Community Affairs, Office of Senator Debbie Stabenow, Michigan
Chris Kolb, President, Michigan Environmental Council
Greg Revard, Central States International Vice President, International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers
Jim Page, Testing Adjusting and Balancing Specialist, International Training Institute

WHAT: **Media availability on Building STAR proposal**, including tour of sheet metal training facility and roundtable discussion with local business and labor leaders.

WHEN: **11:00am-12:00pm, Friday, July 16, 2010**

WHERE: **Sheet Metal and Air-Conditioning Contractors' National Association/Sheet Metal Workers Local #80 Joint Apprentice Training Center**
32700 Dequindre Road
Warren, MI 48092

To RSVP, please contact John Anthony at 202-778-1639 or janthony@energyfuturecoalition.org.

Congressman Peter Welch (D-VT) introduced Building STAR, H.R. 5476, in the House of Representatives on May 28, 2010. Cosponsors include Reps. Melissa Bean (D-IL), Russ Carnahan (D-MO), Ted Deutch (D-FL), Steve Driehaus (D-OH), John Garamendi (D-CA), Paul Hodes (D-NH), Steve Israel (D-NY), Jerry McNerney (D-CA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Anthony Weiner (D-NY).

Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced Building STAR, S.3079, in the Senate on March 4, 2010. Co-sponsors include: Sens. Mark Begich (D-AK), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Mark Pryor (D-AR), Bernie Sanders (D-VT), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

For more information about Building STAR, please visit www.RebuildingAmerica.org.

###