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*Statement by Reid Detchon, Executive Director, Energy Future Coalition:*

“Steve Chu understands the urgency of the climate challenge and the importance of encouraging scientific research and technological innovation to address it. His selection is another indication of how seriously president-elect Obama takes the issue. He will maximize the contributions of our national laboratories toward a new energy future for the United States. He deserves swift confirmation.

"Enactment of robust clean energy programs will lead to a surge in job creation and economic growth, and moving to arrest greenhouse gas emissions is vital to the health of the planet. Steve Chu is the right person, at the right time, to advance both issues.”

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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.

Reid Detchon is Executive Director of the Climate and Energy program at the UN Foundation, in addition to his capacity as Executive Director of the Energy Future Coalition.