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**Statement by Reid Detchon, Executive Director, Energy Future Coalition
On the energy components of President-elect Obama's 'American Recovery and
Reinvestment Plan', touted today in Ohio**

“Buildings account for 70% of our electricity use, 33% of our natural gas use, and 40% of our greenhouse gas emissions. Retrofitting existing buildings – homes, businesses, and schools – will reduce energy consumption, save consumers money, and put America’s home builders and construction industry back to work.

“By investing in energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy, and modernizing the electric power grid, Congress is putting America on the path to a clean energy future that will create jobs and economic opportunity here at home, while reducing the emissions that are causing global warming.

“We have an electric power grid that uses 50-year-old technology that Thomas Edison would recognize, at a time when electricity is the backbone of the modern digital economy. We need to invest in upgrading the grid to make America more secure, to bring our renewable energy resources to market, and to give consumers new ways to save energy and save money.”

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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.