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HOME STAR Gains Momentum in Congress

Washington, D.C. – The broad-based 700+ member HOME STAR Coalition commended Chairman Ed Markey, Ranking Member Fred Upton, Representative Peter Welch and members of the House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment for marking-up a draft of the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010 today. HOME STAR is proposed legislation that would create jobs fast by scaling the existing home energy efficiency improvement industry.

"I was honored to testify before the House last week and voice support for the HOME STAR program on behalf of the HOME STAR Coalition. HOME STAR is a win-win-win: it will put our nation's skilled construction force back to work, benefit homeowners through comfort and energy efficient improvements to their existing homes, and result in long-term energy and environmental gains. I urge Congress to act quickly to commence this program," said WellHome President Larry Laseter.

HOME STAR is a market-driven, low-bureaucracy program that would create jobs fast by scaling the existing home energy efficiency improvement industry. HOME STAR would use incentives to spur more Americans to start making their homes more energy efficient. It would establish a $6 billion rebate program to encourage immediate investment in energy-efficient appliances, building mechanical systems and insulation, and whole-home energy efficiency retrofits. Consumers nationwide would embrace HOME STAR because it will be simple, accessible and help them save money.

"The Home Depot is supportive of the HOME STAR initiative, particularly the Silver Star program, which could be a big win for homeowners, manufacturers, contractors and the environment. If delivered with speed and simplicity, we think the HOME STAR program will help build consumer awareness around energy-efficiency measures and the impact it can have on lowering monthly utility bills. Most importantly, it will help put contractors back to work and stimulate domestic manufacturing," said Ron Jarvis, Vice President Environmental Innovation, The Home Depot.

"Making our homes and buildings more energy efficient is the cleanest, cheapest, and fastest way to reduce emissions. By reducing the amount of energy simply going to waste, HOME STAR would allow hard-hit consumers to see immediate reductions in their energy bills. HOME STAR would also put tens of thousands of Americans back to work almost immediately. For this reason alone, including HOME STAR in one of the upcoming jobs bills should be a no-brainer. It's an easy win for both the economy and the environment," said Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director.

"Home Star provides a direct, simple incentive that will encourage people to make their homes more energy efficient, while creating immediate American jobs in industries that are U.S.-Job centric. The incentive in turn helps the consumer save energy and lower their utility Bills. Putting people back to work is sound U.S. economic policy. Making existing homes more energy efficient is sound energy policy. We support Home Star," said Mike Thaman, Chairman and CEO, Owens Corning.

HOME STAR would help to kick-start the comeback of our country's hard-hit construction industry. It's estimated the legislation would create 168,000 new jobs in construction and related industries over the next two years. This would have a big impact because one out of four construction workers is currently out of a job.

The HOME STAR Coalition represents over 700 construction contractors, building products and mechanical manufacturers, retail sales businesses, environmental and energy efficiency groups and labor advocates from all 50 states who want to see the job creation and energy savings benefits of federal HOME STAR legislation realized.

For more information about HOME STAR and the HOME STAR Coalition, please visit www.homestarcoalition.org.

Additional Quotes in Support of HOME STAR from Some of the Coalition's Diverse Members

"The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy has done a detailed analysis and estimates HOME STAR will create 126,000 jobs in 2010 and 36,000 jobs in 2011. In addition, HOME STAR lays the groundwork for a longer term effort to help most homeowners reduce their energy bills and increase home comfort by making their homes more efficient," said **Steven Nadel, Executive Director, *ACEEE***.

"The continued attention to HOME STAR shows that our elected representatives in Washington realize the enormous potential of energy efficiency incentives. These programs offer consumers a way to save energy, save money, and help bolster America's struggling manufacturing sector. With appropriate incentives for consumers, HOME STAR can help get the American economic engine running again," said **Stephen R. Yurek, President and CEO, AHRI (Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute).**

"Now is the time for HOME STAR," said **Kateri Callahan, President of the *Alliance to Save Energy***. "The Alliance has worked for over 30 years to help Americans save money on their energy bills. Now, with 25 percent unemployment in the construction industry and millions of Americans short on cash, now is the time to seize the great potential of home energy retrofits and enact HOME STAR, which will create jobs here at home, save homeowners money on their energy bills, and set the foundation for a new American industry in home performance."

"With over 25 percent unemployment, the construction industry is in a one industry depression. Retrofitting homes for energy efficiency is not only good for the environment and energy security, it is smart, fast acting, and well targeted jobs policy,' said **Bracken Hendricks, Senior Fellow with the**

Center for American Progress. "HOME STAR is a common-sense solution to put America back to work while saving consumers money."

"HOME STAR is an essential step to help Americans save on their energy bills while spurring the creation of good jobs and new industries that drive economic recovery and help our country achieve energy independence," said **Chris Chafe, Executive Director of *Change to Win***.

"Nothing could be more American than passing this truly bipartisan bill right now," said **Stephen Cowell, CEO of *Conservation Services Group***. "Beyond construction and retrofitting, HOME STAR will have a ripple effect of creating jobs in other areas of the U.S. economy such as retailing, trucking and manufacturing."

"America has the technology, the know-how and a workforce that is ready to retrofit our homes to make them more efficient. HOME STAR will give consumers the incentives they need in order to retrofit their homes, which will immediately reduce global warming pollution, put Americans to work, and save families money in energy costs," said **Alex Wall, Clean Energy Associate for *Environment America***.

"HOME STAR contains all the innovative thinking that it will take to move us to a clean energy economy -- energy efficiency, job creation, and it saves consumers money," said **Green For All CEO Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins.**

"New jobs are desperately needed in America and HOME STAR will provide them by accelerating the growth of an industry focused on making homes use less energy. HOME STAR is based on established quality assurance standards so homeowners can be confident they are getting quality improvements installed and they will start saving money on their utility bills immediately," said **Brett Knox, President, *GreenHomes America***.

"We share President Obama's belief in the need to invest in the green economy and create good jobs that can't be shipped overseas. We are supporting HOME STAR because it will create long-term, well-paying jobs that help struggling workers achieve economic security while also lowering energy costs. These goals are not only consonant with Jewish values of *tzedek* (justice) and *tikkun olam* (repair of the world), but are squarely in the interest of a Jewish community that would like to see the United States end our dependence on foreign energy while taking necessary steps to heal our planet," said **Simon Greer, President and CEO, *Jewish Funds for Justice*.**

"HOME STAR is the right investment for the country at the right time," said **Tracy Price, CEO of *The Linc Group***. "Energy efficiency is not a partisan issue, as it helps move us toward greater energy independence and enhances our national security. This program is targeted at the largest marketplace in the country, existing homes, and will be create jobs in a new industry that will thrive for decades."

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