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Secretary of Commerce Launches National Renewable Energy Export Initiative

Geothermal Industry Leader Elected as Renewable Energy Advisory Committee Chair

Washington, DC (December 8, 2010) - The Secretary of Commerce released the Administration's plan for a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) Export Initiative, and addressed the first meeting of his newly created Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee. Secretary Gary Locke urged its members to help the Administration achieve its goal of doubling renewable energy exports in the next five years, targeting \$10 billion or more in annual export benefits.

"Secretary Locke and the Administration have demonstrated bold leadership in setting this goal, and issuing the National Renewable Export Initiative," said Karl Gawell, Geothermal Energy Association Executive Director, who was elected Chair of the Advisory Committee. "The Initiative lays out goals and specific steps towards those goals that commit the government to action."

The Advisory Committee met for its first day of deliberations yesterday and outlined its work for the coming year. "There was a strong consensus that first we need to help decision makers understand that a strong domestic market is key to expanding US exports and that US leadership in these technologies will pay dividends in billions of dollars in new exports," Gawell said.

The world wide markets for renewable and efficiency technologies are substantial and growing. According to the Department of Commerce (DOC) report, "\$162 billion of private-sector capital was invested in RE&EE technologies globally in 2009. As the economy improves, global investment in RE&EE is likely to increase further."

Expanding US exports in these markets will not be without challenges, as worldwide governments from China to Germany also see the opportunities they present. As the DOC report notes, "Globally, nations are using RE&EE as a catalyst to promote economic growth and to create high-tech, high-wage jobs for their citizens. As of 2009, stimulus bills worldwide invested an additional \$183 billion in RE&EE technologies."

To support achieving these US goals, the Secretary chartered a Federal Advisory Committee of leaders in the renewable energy and energy efficiency field to provide advice and recommendations on a number of topics. These topics include assessing the competitiveness of the U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency industries and their

ability to develop products, services and technologies, helping guide trade policy development and negotiations, developing programs to encourage U.S. producers to enter foreign markets, study the effects of U.S. policies, regulations, and programs on the competitiveness of U.S. companies, prioritize export markets, enhance industry and trade association export promotion programs, improve resource allocation for export promotion efforts, and study policies and practices of foreign governments impacting the export of U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency goods, services and technologies.

“We expect this Committee will be an active partner working to succeed in achieving the aggressive goals for renewable exports being set by the Administration,” Gawell said. The Committee also established several subcommittees, which will be reporting back to the full Committee early next year.

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About the Geothermal Energy Association:

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) is a trade association composed of U.S. companies who support the expanded use of geothermal energy and are developing geothermal Resources worldwide for electrical power generation and direct-heat uses. GEA advocates for public policies that will promote the development and utilization of geothermal Resources, provides a forum for the industry to discuss issues and problems, encourages research and development to improve geothermal technologies, presents industry views to governmental organizations, provides assistance for the export of geothermal goods and services, compiles statistical data about the geothermal industry, and conducts education and outreach projects. For more information, please visit <http://www.geo-energy.org/>. Follow GEA on [Twitter](#). Become a fan on [Facebook](#).

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