



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2010 OUTLOOK FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY LEADERS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF KEY POLICIES TO CREATE JOBS AND MAINTAIN AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS

Washington, D.C. (February 9, 2010) — Today, top executives in the renewable energy sector gathered to applaud 2009's strong renewable energy development but emphasized the need for Congress to swiftly enact key policies to continue accelerated growth across the entire sector in order to add jobs and boost economic growth in 2010.

Executives stressed that if these policies are not enacted, the renewable energy sector could face a downturn in investment and jobs in 2010. Participants in today's press conference represented the full scope of the renewables sector, including Denise Bode, CEO, American Wind Energy Association (AWEA); Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director, National Hydropower Association (NHA); Robert Cleaves, President and CEO, Biomass Power Association (BPA); Karl Gawell, Executive Director of the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA); and Rhone Resch, President and CEO, Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA).

The renewable energy leaders called for Congress to pass a strong national renewable energy standard (RES) with clear near- and long-term goals, along with expansion and extension of credit incentives, and comprehensive legislation. These policies will maintain American competitiveness and attract tens of billions of dollars of investment in clean energy production and manufacturing facilities. A major new study conducted by Navigant Consulting, Inc. reveals that a 25% by 2025 national RES would result in 274,000 more renewable energy jobs than a no-national RES policy scenario.

"The RES is the best way to provide the certainty that companies need to expand wind manufacturing nationwide," said AWEA CEO Denise Bode. "The importance of building a strong renewable energy manufacturing base in the U.S. cannot be overstated. The U.S. has a historic opportunity to fortify the clean energy economy but is committing unilateral economic disarmament by not giving itself the policy tools to do so."

"Policy matters in tapping hydropower's tremendous growth potential in every state, which will lead to the creation of well-paying, family-supporting jobs," said Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director, NHA. "We need a strong RES, tax incentives and other support policy if we are to double hydropower's contribution to America's energy portfolio."

"Thousands of jobs in the biomass power industry could be lost if Congress fails to extend the production tax credit for biomass power that recently expired late last year. These tax credits are literally the life-line to many biomass power facilities that provide long-term high paying jobs in rural areas currently facing unemployment levels as high as 15 percent," said Robert Cleaves, President of the Biomass Power Association. "Congress should support all American sources of renewable energy by renewing the production tax credit for biomass power and passing an aggressive national renewable electricity standard. Policies that promote the growth of America's renewable energy sector will move the United States closer towards energy independence, create thousands of long-term clean energy jobs, and reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy."

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“The United States has been the world leader in geothermal energy production and in the past years our industry has seen renewed growth, even despite the recession. This is a testament to the support of federal and state policies and highlights the potential for our country to continue to lead the world in geothermal production and technology,” said Karl Gawell, Executive Director, GEA. “This year Congress enacted stimulus legislation with a historic group of incentives supporting geothermal and other renewable technologies. Now in its 2011 budget, the Administration proposed additional measures, including ramping up incentives for the domestic manufacturing capacity needed to supply a growing geothermal power industry. The keys to sustain this growth will be adopting longer-term measures to support an increase in both new projects and the manufacturing and supply infrastructure. That means extending the stimulus bill’s tax incentives through 2016, adopting a strong renewable electricity standard, and other measures to keep the U.S. a leader in geothermal energy.”

“One of the fastest ways to create jobs in America is to invest in clean energy,” said Rhone Resch, president and CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association. “These are quality jobs and they can’t be outsourced. From plumbers to electricians to construction workers, the solar industry created nearly 20,000 jobs last year with the support of the stimulus bill. We proved that we can create much-needed job growth now with the right policies in place. But we can only keep up that momentum if Congress enacts a jobs bill that promotes deployment of solar and other clean energy technologies.”

For more information on Navigant Consulting, Inc.’s study on the job impact of a national RES see <http://www.res-alliance.org/res-jobs-study>.

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About AWEA

AWEA is the national trade association of America's wind industry, with more than 2,500 member companies, including global leaders in wind power and energy development, wind turbine manufacturing, component and service suppliers, and the world's largest wind power trade show. AWEA is the voice of wind energy in the U.S., promoting renewable energy to power a cleaner, stronger America. Look up information on wind energy at the [AWEA Web site](#). Find insight on industry issues at AWEA's blog [Into the Wind](#). Join AWEA on [Facebook](#). Follow AWEA on [Twitter](#).

For more on wind energy's performance in 2009 and jobs in wind energy today see http://www.awea.org/newsroom/releases/01-26-10_AWEA_Q4_and_Year-End_Report_Release.html.

About BPA

The Biomass Power Association is the nation's leading organization working to increase the use of clean, renewable biomass power and create new jobs and opportunities in the biomass industry. BPA represents over 100 biomass power facilities in 20 different states. As policymakers at every level explore ways to lower greenhouse gases and reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, BPA is the leading advocate at the state and federal level for a strong commitment to clean, renewable biomass energy. Members include local owners and operators of existing biomass facilities, suppliers, plant developers and others all across the U.S. For more information please visit www.BiomassPowerAssociation.com.

About GEA

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/>. Check out GEA's [YouTube Channel](#). Follow GEA on [Twitter](#). Become a fan on [Facebook](#).

About NHA

The National Hydropower Association (NHA) is a nonprofit national association dedicated exclusively to advancing the interests of the hydropower industry, including new waterpower technologies – conduit power, and ocean, tidal and instream hydrokinetics. It seeks to secure hydropower's place as a climate-friendly, renewable and reliable energy source that serves national environmental and energy policy objectives. Learn more at www.hydro.org.

About SEIA

Established in 1974, the Solar Energy Industries Association is the national trade association of the U.S. solar energy industry. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works with its 1,000 member companies to make solar a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy.

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