

Following Copenhagen, Hundreds of U.S. Companies Call on Congress to Enact Clean Energy and Climate Legislation

Over 750 companies have joined fast-growing business coalition

WASHINGTON, D.C. – December 22, 2009 -- As world leaders return home from the Copenhagen climate change summit, hundreds of businesses are standing together to demand comprehensive action by Congress on federal clean energy and climate legislation. In its first six weeks, the American Businesses for Clean Energy (ABCE) initiative has grown from just 19 members to include over 750 businesses as of today. ABCE is a diverse coalition of businesses that support Congressional action to pass clean energy and climate legislation that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ABCE spokesperson Christopher Van Atten said: **“The rapid increase in business flocking to ABCE sends a strong signal to Congress of the strong support for meaningful and effective legislation that will drive clean technology innovation, create jobs, and address the threat of global climate change. With all of the business interest in the proceedings at Copenhagen and the increasing focus on climate change, we expect to see an additional surge in our membership over the holiday period and into January. Frankly, we have been overwhelmed by the interest in the American Businesses for Clean Energy.”**

Among the new members is Serious Materials, Inc., a Sunnyvale, California-based company that manufactures energy-efficient building materials. The company’s CEO was named “Entrepreneur of the Year for 2009” by Inc. magazine. Other new members include: The Saunders Hotel Group, a Boston-based hotel management firm with properties throughout the Northeast; and Recycled Energy Development, a Westmont, Illinois-based developer of industrial cogeneration projects.

Robin Roy, Ph.D., vice president, Serious Materials, Inc., said: “Serious Materials supports prompt, effective legislation to address the threat of climate change. We know from our first-hand experience that policies that deliver cost effective energy efficiency not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions; they also benefit consumers and create good jobs. There is an enormous opportunity to improve energy efficiency in homes, schools, offices and other buildings across the country. We are delighted to play our part, manufacturing cost-effective super-insulating windows, and we are delighted to join with ABCE in helping get the word out that there are practical, economic steps that can and should be taken right now.”

“The Saunders Hotel Group is proud to be a member of ABCE as we celebrate our 20th year since pioneering urban ecotourism” said Tedd Saunders, chief sustainability officer of The Saunders Hotel Group and president of EcoLogical Solutions Inc. “We are one of the many hundreds of mainstream companies actively sending a message to Congress that American businesses are eager for strong federal climate policy that will create good jobs and strengthen our economy while avoiding the worst consequences of the looming climate crisis. Putting a price on carbon will finally send a clear signal to businesses and industry to invest in a more sustainable future for the benefit of our citizens and economy.”

“The U.S. can cut its greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time improving corporate profitability,” said Dick Munson, senior vice president, Recycled Energy Development. “Clean energy developers will respond to comprehensive climate legislation by making substantial investments that increase American productivity and jobs. It’s time we change the way our country generates power in order to both slash our pollution and expand our competitiveness.”

ABCE’s message is bold and clear: “We are businesses from a broad cross-section of American industry that support Congressional action to enact clean energy and climate legislation that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Now is the time to act.”

Some of the first signatories to the ABCE pledge of support included Aspen Skiing Company, Avista, Calpine Corporation, Conservation Services Group, DB Climate Change Advisors (Deutsche Bank

Group), FPL Group, Gap Inc., National Grid, New York Power Authority, PNM Resources, and Public Service Enterprise Group. To see a full list of companies go to:
<http://www.AmericanBusinessesforCleanEnergy.org>.

ABOUT AMERICAN BUSINESSES FOR CLEAN ENERGY

ABCE is intended as a broad umbrella organization to show the breadth of business support for clean energy and climate legislation. ABCE will not develop detailed policy recommendations or evaluate specific proposals since existing business coalitions already address those needs. The ABCE initiative is open to any company or business association that supports Congressional action to pass effective climate and energy legislation now. By joining the initiative, these companies are making a public statement urging Congress to act.

To learn more about American Businesses for Clean Energy (ABCE) and to pledge support for clean energy legislation, please visit: <http://www.AmericanBusinessesforCleanEnergy.org>.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: A full list of the businesses that have joined ABCE is available at <http://www.AmericanBusinessesforCleanEnergy.org>.