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CONTACT:
Satya Rhodes-Conway
608.262.5387
satya@cows.org

STEERING COMMITTEE

Forest Ceel
IBEW Local #2150

Jennifer Giegerich
Wisconsin League of
Conservation Voters

Phil Neuenfeldt
Wisconsin AFL-CIO

Keith Reopelle
Clean Wisconsin

Joel Rogers
Center on Wisconsin Strategy

Shahla Werner
Sierra Club

Chuck Geiger
Blue Green Alliance

Wisconsin Apollo Alliance makes case for investment in the clean energy economy

The Wisconsin Apollo Alliance is asking the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature to take bold steps to move Wisconsin into the clean energy economy. In a letter to the committee, it asks legislators to amend the Energy Independence Fund, so that at least a percentage of that fund must be used to build renewable energy supply chains in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin is facing a critical moment. The economic downturn has had a very serious impact on its economy and citizens. We have lost jobs and companies, and many industries are struggling to deal with high energy prices, lack of credit, and a sluggish market.

As the state is now poised to spend millions of dollars from the Federal Recovery Act and State Stimulus Bill, this crisis may present an opportunity to move Wisconsin forward into the clean energy economy in way that is clean, equitable, and profitable.

With its historic strength in manufacturing, a strong workforce, and an excellent technical college system, Wisconsin is in a good position to build renewable energy and energy efficiency supply chains and to manufacture components needed for renewable energy generation and increased energy efficiency. A \$1.6 billion investment in renewable component manufacturing in Wisconsin could generate over 35,000 new jobs.

However, Wisconsin must take action to capture this potential. Already, we are falling behind other states in this area, and our manufacturing sector is suffering as a result.

In order to realize the full potential of the clean energy economy, Wisconsin Apollo believes the Department of Commerce should:

- Identify companies that produce renewable components and work with them to map their supply chains.
- Target support towards in-state firms that are interested in re-tooling to fit into these renewable energy supply chains.
- Connect companies developing renewable energy resources in Wisconsin with the in-state manufacturers that can supply their needs.
- Make any state support contingent on the provision of high-quality jobs, including payment of a living wage, provision of health insurance, card-check neutrality, and a commitment to worker training.

The Wisconsin Apollo Alliance is a coalition of labor and environmental leaders working to catalyze a clean energy revolution in Wisconsin and to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, cut the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are destabilizing our climate, and expand economic opportunity for Wisconsin businesses and communities. Learn more at: <http://apolloalliance.org/state-local/wisconsin/>

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