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Contact: Meghan O'Shaughnessy at (703) 302-8383 or meghan@tigercomm.us

“Retrofit Roadshow” Rolls into Cincinnati

National Tour Aims to Foster Public-Private Investment in a New American Weatherization Industry

Cincinnati, OH – U.S. Representative Steve Driehaus (OH-1) and Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory were among the prominent local leaders who convened at the Duke Energy Convention Center today as part of a “Retrofit Roadshow.” The Roadshow brings elected officials, business leaders, labor union representatives and environmental advocates together to identify ways to spur collaborative public-private investment in a new American weatherization industry.

Retrofitting the estimated 100 million energy inefficient American homes will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, reduce household energy costs by \$3.5 billion a year (an average of \$350 per homeowner) and save the equivalent of 500 million barrels of oil annually. Right now, however, there simply isn't the infrastructure in place to meet this potential.

“Investments in energy efficiency and clean energy technology are critical to the future of job creation and economic growth in this country. The weatherization industry is already helping us move toward a clean energy economy by spurring job growth and making our homes more energy efficient,” said Rep. Driehaus. **“The Retrofit Roadshow is bringing together key stakeholders and helping to ensure that we continue to support and take full advantage of this growing industry.”**

Part of the Roadshow involved members of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – demonstrating elements of a home energy efficiency retrofit out of their mobile training unit, including insulating windows and walls. LIUNA has designed a breakthrough national program to train thousands of workers in communities across the country to do skilled energy efficiency retrofits, in order to meet the demand for a skilled weatherization workforce. LIUNA trainees learn detailed weatherization skills at LIUNA's nationwide network of training centers, and have the opportunity to advance in family-supporting careers.

“LIUNA's national weatherization training program will help make it possible to put tens of thousands of people to work doing skilled weatherization on millions of energy-inefficient homes. With one-in-10 American workers currently unemployed, that could make a real difference,” said Rob Richardson from LIUNA. **“Together we can create family-supporting jobs, save homeowners money on their energy bills, help free our nation from foreign oil and protect the environment. It's a win no matter how you look at it.”**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act invested \$5 billion to expand the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program and meet the Obama Administration's goal of weatherizing one million homes a year. This is a nearly 10-fold increase in the amount typically invested in weatherizing poorly insulated homes, but it is still not enough to fix all of the nation's energy inefficient homes. DOE recently announced that it will be

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allocating over \$400 million in competitive energy efficiency grants, which could help fund weatherization projects in cities like Cincinnati and around the country. The Retrofit Roadshow aims to close the remaining investment gap and identify ways to ramp up both public *and* private investment in America's weatherization industry, including "pay-as-you-save" models, utility partnerships, bonds and pension fund investments.

"Labor unions, businesses and communities are coming together to address the need to upgrade our vastly inefficient and aging buildings and homes. Together we can forge the way to rebuild America for the 21st century, creating thousands of good green jobs while lowering household energy bills and reducing global warming pollution," said Margrete Strand-Rangnes, Deputy Director of the Blue Green Alliance. **"The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides a boost to weatherization work across the country, but there is much work to be done. Now is a critical time for labor, business and community leaders, local and state officials to blaze an ambitious trail to energy independence."**

For more information on LIUNA's weatherization training program please visit <http://www.liunabuildsamerica.org/weatherize>.

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