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New Coalition of State Leaders Calls for Action On Energy and Climate Policy

Washington, DC - With momentum growing behind a national policy on clean energy and climate change, a new coalition of state leaders has formed to urge Congress to act.

The Coalition of Legislators for Energy Action Now (CLEAN) launched this week with a two-day visit to Washington featuring 22 state legislators from 19 states to advocate for clean energy jobs and climate legislation. The group met with Senior White House officials on Wednesday and planned a series of Capitol Hill meetings for Thursday. Members of CLEAN today participated in a Capitol press conference with Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, a former Oregon House Speaker.

“As Speaker of the Oregon House, I knew that we could get a lot done on the state level, but we could get even more accomplished with a strong federal partner. These local leaders are committed to moving forward with legislation that will create new clean energy jobs, reduce air pollution and make our nation more self-sufficient,” said Merkley. “Their voices are a valuable part of this debate and I applaud their efforts to stand for a stronger, smarter energy policy.”

“Many leaders at the state level can see the benefits of a policy that will foster innovation, combat climate change, create jobs, and pave the way for a more competitive, sustainable clean energy economy,” said Minnesota State Representative Jeremy Kalin, the Chair of CLEAN. “State legislators have been taking the lead for 20 years, crafting clean energy policies that power our nation. We understand the unique challenges and opportunities facing business and labor in our states, and many of us see federal action as the launching pad for the next generation of innovation and prosperity in America. It is crucial that the states have a voice in this important work.”

This coalition of state lawmakers has been coordinating efforts over the last month, preparing for this week's meetings with White House and Capitol officials concerning clean energy reform. Working

together with colleagues in other states, these lawmakers have compiled a slate of constructive ideas that will help guide the ongoing clean energy debate in Congress.

Participants in the CLEAN advocacy visit include: Rep. Beth Kerttula (Alaska), Rep. Ed Ableser (Arizona) Sen. Harris McDowell (DE), Rep. Scott Randolph (Florida), Rep. Nate Reichert (Iowa), Sen. Elliot Werk (Idaho), Rep. Mary Ann Sullivan (Indiana), Rep. Frank Smizik (Massachusetts), Del. James Hubbard (Maryland), Rep. Jon Hinck (ME), Rep. Alex Cornell du Houx (ME), Rep. Jeremy Kalin (Minnesota), Rep. Kate Knuth (Minnesota), Sen. Ellen Anderson (Minnesota), Rep. Mike Phillips (Montana), Rep. Pricey Harrison (North Carolina), Sen. Tim Mathern (North Dakota), Rep. Mimi Stewart (New Mexico), Sen. Phil Leventis (South Carolina), Sen. Rodney Ellis (Texas), Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple (Virginia), Rep. Maralyn Chase (Washington).

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