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“Retrofit Roadshow” Rolls into Las Vegas

National tour aims to implement national policies to create good green jobs and grow a clean energy economy

Las Vegas, NV – Mayor Oscar Goodman and State Senate Majority Leader Steven Horsford were among the prominent state and local leaders who convened at the Cashman 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 and implement collaborative public-private investment in an American weatherization industry in order to create good, green jobs and grow a clean energy economy.

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. However, there simply isn't the infrastructure in place to meet this potential.

“The Roadshow highlights a real opportunity for Las Vegas and our nation,” said Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman. **“In Southern Nevada, we understand the importance of conservation and using our natural resources wisely, and the leaders of our communities, businesses and non-profits launched the Green Chips organization earlier this year to promote a clean, green economy for our future. The Roadshow is helping us fill in that roadmap -- showing ways to save energy, protect the environment, attract green investment, grow green jobs and build a better quality of life for our region.”**

Part of the Roadshow involved members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 872 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. Local 872 recently graduated its third class of skilled weatherization workers, many of whom have already landed jobs retrofitting local homes.

“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 Mark Edgel, Training Director of the Southern Nevada Laborers' Training Trust. **“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 (DOE) 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 would

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also allocate over \$400 million in competitive energy efficiency grants, which could help fund weatherization projects in cities like Las Vegas 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.

"Nevada and Las Vegas are on the forefront of our green economy, attracting clean energy companies from around the world and leading with a robust climate action agenda," said Jane Feldman, Conservation Chair of the Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter. **"While the construction industry is suffering in this economic climate, LIUNA is putting significant resources into upgrading our vastly inefficient homes and buildings across the country, providing training expertise and career pathways for workers. 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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