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Contact: Jaelyn Macek Houser, 202-942-2264, [jmacek@liuna.org](mailto:jmacek@liuna.org)

## ***U.S. Energy Secretary Applauds LIUNA's Weatherization Training Program, Role in Local Green Job Creation***

**Cincinnati, OH (October 15, 2010)** – Yesterday, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu acknowledged the role LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – is playing in creating family-supporting weatherization jobs in Cincinnati and praised the union's breakthrough national weatherization training program.

At a residential energy efficiency roundtable at Cincinnati State University, Secretary Chu touted current weatherization workforce development efforts in the Cincinnati region. At a time when some stimulus programs are coming under fire, he noted that Cincinnati provides a national example of how strong local partners can come together to place workers into training programs that lead to quality work opportunities.

Earlier this year, the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance (GCEA) was awarded a \$17 million "Retrofit Ramp Up" grant by the U.S. Department of Energy to weatherize a large percentage of homes in the region and create good paying jobs for local residents. In conjunction with the "Ramp Up" award, LIUNA has been partnering with the GCEA and others to implement the grant program effectively.

LIUNA has recently created a breakthrough weatherization worker training program to provide highly-skilled weatherization installers, supervisors and energy auditors on the scale needed to meet growing demand for weatherization services nationally. In addition to Ohio, LIUNA trainees are already making homes more energy efficient in Delaware, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington, DC.

"LIUNA is proud to be a part of nationally-recognized programs like the GCEA – programs that are working to save energy and create good green jobs," said LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan. "We're ready to ramp up across the nation to train a weatherization workforce who will do the job right and ensure American tax dollars are spent wisely."

O'Sullivan also noted that beyond a training model, LIUNA has also been working with the GCEA and other community partners to find interested homeowners for the program. "Even after the stimulus, we want to keep generating interest to weatherize homes. Residential energy efficiency is a no-brainer: it saves energy, saves American homeowners money, and – at a time when one-in-four construction workers are out of work – it can help get our economy rolling again."

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*The half million members of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of workers who are proud to build America.*