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Poll, Studies Underscore Potential of Clean Energy Jobs Plan to Revitalize North Dakota

(Bismarck, ND) - A coalition of sportsmen, conservation, wildlife and environmental groups, urging Congress to pass a clean energy jobs plan, today released a set of studies underscoring how comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation can renew North Dakota's economy with new clean energy jobs. The groups also highlighted a new poll underscoring strong public support for Congressional action.

"It's time to get America running on clean energy," said Mindi Grieve, with the Environmental Law and Policy Center in Jamestown. "Clean energy jobs are already keeping thousands of North Dakotans working. If Congress passes a comprehensive clean energy and climate plan we could put thousands more back to work in our state alone."

A study from the Pew Charitable Trusts, entitled "Clean Energy Economy," examined the number of clean energy jobs that already exist in each state. The study found that over 2000 North Dakotans are already employed in the clean energy economy.

"This report shows that clean energy jobs are real and they're here today," said Grieve. "Now we just need Congress to act so we can create more jobs, slash pollution, and make America more secure."

A second study from the Center for American Progress and the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst found that the clean energy jobs plan passed by the House of Representatives, the American Clean Energy & Security Act, when combined with stimulus funding, would create 1.7 million net new jobs. That includes 4,000 new clean energy jobs for North Dakota.

"We need bold action to renew our economy," said Grieve. "By passing clean energy and climate legislation now, Congress can make sure that the clean energy jobs of tomorrow are right here in North Dakota instead of India or China."

In addition to providing new jobs and a boost to the overall economy, a clean energy jobs plan would be of particular benefit to low-income Americans. A national report from Green for All and the Natural Resources Defense Council, entitled "Green Prosperity," highlights the potential for a clean energy jobs plan to fight poverty and raise living standards in communities across the U.S.

"Low-income Americans stand to gain tremendously—with new jobs, higher wages, and lower living expenses," said Grieve. "Building the clean energy economy will benefit all Americans, but this report shows that it will help some of those hit hardest by the economic collapse the most."

Finally, a new poll conducted on behalf of the National Wildlife Federation by Zogby International shows strong public support for comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation. A supermajority of respondents, 71 percent, support the plan passed by the House in June. The poll also underscored strong support for Senate action, with more than half of respondents agreeing that the Senate should act quickly to pass a comprehensive clean energy and climate plan.

“The public strongly supports the clean energy jobs plan passed by the House and it’s also clear they want the Senate to act—right now,” said Jason Schaefer of the National Wildlife Federation. “When Congress comes back from recess, it’s time for the Senate to get working to put America back to work in the clean energy economy.”

For more information:

Pew Charitable Trusts Report: http://www.pewtrusts.org/our_work_detail.aspx?id=692

CAP-PERI Report: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/06/clean_energy.html

Green for All-NRDC Report: <http://www.greenforall.org/resources/green-prosperity/green-prosperity/>

NWF Zogby Poll: <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.cfm?ID=1730>

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