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Clean Energy Businesses Applaud House Release of Energy and Climate Change Draft

Washington, DC, April 1, 2009 - The Business Council for Sustainable Energy commends House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Edward Markey (D-MA) on the release of comprehensive federal energy and climate change draft legislation.

As a broad-based coalition of companies and organizations from clean energy industries, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, natural gas and related trade associations, the Council believes it is critical that Congress moves forward with an economy-wide, market-based climate change program that recognizes and rewards existing clean energy technologies as solutions to climate challenges.

With the release of the Waxman-Markey discussion draft, Congress is sending an important signal on the need for an integrated approach to address climate change and greenhouse gas mitigation. Critical energy policies – such as building efficiency provisions, a Renewable Electricity Standard and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, among others are included in the discussion draft. If enacted, these standards can drive near-term emission reductions, speed deployment of clean energy technologies that will lower the cost of compliance with emissions targets for businesses and households, and address pressing energy and air quality challenges.

Related to the design of a cap-and-trade system, the Council is encouraged by the following elements of the discussion draft:

- Clear mid-term and long-term emission reduction targets
- Inclusion of a federal offset program, with both domestic and international project opportunities
- Flexible cost containment mechanisms, such as banking and offsets that maintain market signals to invest in existing clean energy technology

The Council looks forward to working with the House Energy & Commerce Committee and other relevant committees as discussions continue on allowance allocation decisions. The Council believes that in order to achieve the objectives of the legislation, allowance value should be directed to investment and deployment of existing clean energy technologies.

For more information on the Council's climate change and energy policy priorities, please see *Moving the Nation Towards a Clean Energy Economy* at the following link:

http://www.bcse.org/images/bcse%20moving%20the%20nation%20to%20a%20clean%20energy%20economy_2e.pdf

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The Council is an industry coalition that includes businesses and trade associations representing the energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas industries. These industries showcase a suite of currently available technology options that can strengthen domestic energy security and also reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. For more information about the Council please visit our website at www.bcse.org.