



For Immediate Release
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NEW JOBS BILL INTRODUCED IN U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Building STAR to spur job growth and energy savings

WASHINGTON – As the nation continues to search for ways to improve the economy and boost job growth, U.S. Representative Peter Welch (D-VT) along with a number of other Members today introduced Building STAR, a package of rebates and financing provisions to quickly put people to work retrofitting commercial buildings for energy efficiency. Building STAR will provide a model for public-private partnerships by leveraging \$2-\$3 in private investment for every federal dollar spent.

“As our nation continues to struggle with high unemployment, we must invest in job-creating programs like Building STAR,” said Rep. Welch. “This public-private partnership will help businesses cut their energy expenses, reduce carbon emissions and create quality jobs.”

Building STAR is supported by a coalition of more than 100 contractor groups, unions, manufacturers, businesses, financial services organizations and energy efficiency advocates. Building STAR would result in an estimated 423,000 building retrofits, create between 150,000 and 200,000 American jobs and save American businesses and consumers more than \$3 billion in avoided energy costs, in addition to avoiding CO₂ emissions equivalent to taking four million cars off the road.¹

“At a time when one in four construction workers is out of work, this is a jobs bill that will have an immediate impact on the economy,” said Reid Detchon, executive director of the Energy Future Coalition. “By sponsoring Building STAR, Rep. Welch and his colleagues are showing their commitment to the American worker and making an investment in our energy future.”

“Building STAR will help to put money back into the pockets of the people that create the majority of jobs in our economy – small business owners,” said Alliance to Save Energy President Kateri Callahan. “With commercial buildings using one-fifth of the energy in this country, it is plain common sense to help businesses reduce their energy use through these rebates and allow them to invest in putting people back to work instead of in paying unnecessarily high energy bills.”

Representative Welch introduced Building STAR along with Reps. Melissa Bean (D-IL), Russ Carnahan (D-MO), Jerry McNerney (D-CA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Steve Israel (D-NY), Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Anthony Weiner (D-NY).

For more information about Building STAR, please visit www.rebuildingamerica.org.

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¹ The analysis of Building STAR was based on \$6 billion in federal funds, matched by \$12-18 billion in private investment.