

News Release

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Energy Action "Truth Offensive" Corrects Columbia Riverkeeper Miscount

(Portland OR, January 16, 2009) In keeping with its commitment to launch a "truth offensive" to challenge the falsehoods and misleading statements by groups opposed to needed energy infrastructure development, Energy Action Northwest (EANW) today corrected an egregious overcount of attendees at Tuesday's anti-LNG Rally held on the steps of the State Capitol in Salem.

In an email sent Wednesday by Olivia Schmidt representing Columbia RiverKeeper, Sierra Club & Oregon Citizens Against the Pipeline, she stated, "We had over 400 people present at the rally with great signs, loud voices and all their hearts in the right place."

Setting the record straight, EANW today posted online a picture taken at the height of the rally, which clearly shows the crowd numbered at approximately 100 individuals, and not the 400 claimed by the rally's sponsors. (Photo is attached.)

"A deliberate misstatement such as this...where event attendance is being overstated by 400%...cannot go unchallenged," stated EANW Executive Director Edward Finklea. "Fair-minded people around our state are growing tired of being misled...in matters large and small...about an issue of critical importance to our future."

As an example of how such distortions can be spread to unsuspecting citizens, Finklea cited a picture, taken by photographer Mitch Lies (*his real name*), which appeared on the front page of today's *Daily Astorian*. The closely cropped image showed about a dozen LNG protesters, but carried the caption that described LNG opponents as "throng[ed] in the streets of Salem."

Finklea continued, "We believe the answers to our energy challenge will flow only from honest, balanced and accurate information and discussion. Support for the economy and support for the environment are not mutually exclusive. However, deliberate misrepresentation of the truth in pursuit of narrow ideological goals helps no one in Oregon, especially on the topic of energy. The future of our state and the job security of hundreds of thousands of Oregonians rely on our state's ability to create rational policies and programs to restore strength and competitiveness to our economy," he concluded.

EANW has launched what it calls a major "truth offensive" in order to correct misinformation created by environmental extremist organizations, such as RiverKeeper. The focus will be to ensure that all sides in the debate are held accountable for their statements.

*(continued)****The Job Keepers.***

Energy Action Northwest is a public policy advocacy group representing businesses and labor organizations in the Pacific Northwest that are concerned about the reliability and affordability of electricity and natural gas. Its members are energy stakeholders who recognize that the Northwest needs to promote energy efficiency, renewable resource development and additional infrastructure and supply sources. It recommends energy policies based on sound economics, science, rational environmental stewardship and competitive cost.