

**NEWS RELEASE****For Immediate Release****Contact: Tom Ivancie, (503)333-4233**

(Salem, OR: April 16, 2009) Representatives of Energy Action Northwest (EANW), the labor and industry coalition for responsible energy policy, today released a statement in opposition to legislation that seeks to prevent development of LNG terminals in Oregon.

In a statement submitted to the House Sustainability and Economic Development Committee, EANW Executive Director Edward Finklea criticized the legislation (HB 2015) because it would create unnecessary hurdles to the development of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Oregon.

“Current federal and Oregon state laws already require that LNG terminals meet all necessary environmental standards, protect fisheries, and safeguard Oregon’s air and water quality,” stated Finklea. “Our coalition urges you to vote against HB 2015,” he continued.

Finklea cited two principal reasons for opposing the legislation:

1. Oregon already has a substantial role in the LNG permitting process that is exercised by the Department of Environmental Quality and through Coastal Zone Management permits.
2. HB 2015 would put Oregon’s Department of Energy in the position of attempting to usurp the role of the federal government in certificating an LNG terminal. The bill would set the State of Oregon on a long and litigious path that would likely result in the courts ruling that federal law preempts the new state requirements.

“HB 2015 would delay needed energy infrastructure development at a time when private investment is sorely needed and Oregon’s unemployment rate is at an historic 12.1 percent. Natural gas infrastructure projects would bring private investment to our state without tax breaks or public subsidies,” Finklea stated.

He continued, “Oregon cannot afford any legislative attempt to delay or block the development of an LNG terminal and natural gas pipelines,” Finklea continued. “New natural gas infrastructure is crucial to achieving a renewable energy future and is needed to heat homes, power businesses and generate electricity. The use of clean natural gas can and should be the ‘blue bridge to a green future’ for Oregon.”

*(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 support the organization's objectives recommending energy policies based on sound economics, science, rational environmental stewardship and competitive cost. The organization also provides accurate information and context needed to correct misinformation created by certain opponents to the development of new energy infrastructure in the Oregon and Washington.