

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Ed Finklea  
503-595-1232**

### **Three Named to Energy Action Northwest Board of Directors**

(Portland, OR: January 8, 2009) Energy Action Northwest, 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, today announced three appointments to its Board of Directors.

Bruce Martin, Manager of Energy and Environmental Services for Blue Heron Paper Company, an integrated producer of environmentally responsible newsprint and specialty papers, has been named Chairman of the Energy Action Northwest Board of Directors. In his role as Chairman, Martin will work with other board members and staff to develop and oversee policy and program development for the coalition.

Martin is graduate of the University of Washington (B.S. in Pulp and Paper Engineering), with more than twenty years of professional experience in the pulp and paper industry as well as in environmental engineering. He has held leadership positions in the region's environmental sector, as well as in the industrial sector, serving as a past chairman of both the Oregon Chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) and the Northwest Industrial Gas Users Association (NWIGU). He has also served as a volunteer trustee of the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU) and the Northwest Pulp and Paper Association (NWPPA).

"We are pleased to have Bruce leading the Energy Action Northwest Board of Directors," stated Edward Finklea, Executive Director of Energy Action NW. "Bruce has won the respect of the business and labor community," continued Finklea, referring to Martin's efforts in the restructuring of the Smurfit Newsprint mill in Oregon City into Blue Heron Paper, the only employee-owned union shop paper mill in the Pacific Northwest.

Also joining the Energy Action NW Board of Directors are Joe Esmonde, the Renewable Energy Political Liaison for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) (Local 48 in Portland) and John Mohlis, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council.

As political liaison, Esmonde represents the energy and economic interests of 3,800 skilled electrical workers. "Joe has developed a keen understanding of the need to balance energy resource development with environmental stewardship," stated Finklea, referencing Esmonde's role on the Conservation Advisory Council of the Energy Trust of Oregon.

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**The Job Keepers.**

A graduate of Wheeling University in West Virginia (B.A. in English), Esmonde came to Oregon to work in the lumber industry. He graduated from the IBEW electrical apprenticeship program in 1993 and carries a general journeyman's license in Oregon and Washington.

Mohlis has served eight years as a member of the Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Council, which is responsible for overseeing apprenticeship programs, especially for those in the building and construction trades. He is also a member of the Portland-Vancouver Regional Economic Development District and one of five members of the Portland Development Commission.

"John Mohlis brings us a keen understanding of our region's construction economy and public infrastructure," said Finklea, referring to Mohlis' service as a member of the Portland South Waterfront Apprenticeship Agreement Oversight Committee, the Construction Apprenticeship Workforce Solutions (CAWS) Board and the Airport Futures Public Advisory Group which is responsible for charting the future of the Portland International Airport.

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 natural gas supplies. It recommends energy policies based on sound economics, science, rational environmental stewardship and competitive cost.