

**NEWS RELEASE****For Immediate Release****Contact: Tom Ivancie  
(503) 333-4233****Business & Labor Coalition Appeals to Governor Kulongoski in Salem**

**(Salem, OR, March 5, 2009)** Business and labor leaders gathered at the State Capitol today in an appeal to Governor Kulongoski to end state regulatory opposition to the development of new energy infrastructure for Oregon, such as the proposed natural gas terminals and pipelines now under review.

Speakers at the event, sponsored by Energy Action Northwest, suggested that the state needs to change the conversation concerning energy policy so that the needs of the present and short term future are considered as much as the desired long term goal of clean, green energy.

“We are here today to signal the growing concern of business and labor that our energy *present* is at risk,” stated EANW Executive Director Edward Finklea. “Too much focus on our energy tomorrow has marginalized the prudent attention necessary to assure that our current and near term energy future is adequate and assured,” he continued.

Finklea reviewed published projections showing a dramatic growth in the need for natural gas and for electricity over the period of time...20 years... that energy experts agree will be required to perfect alternative sources of clean energy. Finklea also cited projections of decreased natural gas supply from Canada as well as insufficient pipeline infrastructure...something that must be remedied to ensure that Oregon can compete with eastern states for other sources of natural gas.

“Our energy infrastructure is inadequate to the task of meeting near term demand,” stated Finklea. “Too many participants in the energy debate seem to have leapt to an incorrect—and dangerous—conclusion that we can afford to block, delay and otherwise interdict the development of this needed infrastructure as we wait for the promise of clean and green energy to become a reality. To do so will put the economic health of our state at risk,” he continued.

Finklea and several business and labor representatives appealed to Governor Kulongoski to make the energy needs of today and the near term as much a part of his energy policy as is his vision for the renewable future.

They also cited the economic impact of the pending infrastructure projects, including Bradwood Landing and the Palomar pipeline, which together would create close to 1,000 jobs and inject over \$1.5 billion into the state’s economy.

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

Attending the event with Finklea were Oregon State Representative Mike Schaufler (D-Happy Valley); John Mohlis, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council and Joe Esmonde, Renewable Energy Political Liaison for IBEW (Local 48 in Portland).

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.