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OEC praises Strickland's energy proposals

(Jan. 26, 2010 - Columbus, OH) — The Ohio Environmental Council is praising a pair of proposals announced today by Gov. Ted Strickland to promote more green energy in Ohio by:

- Establishing a \$40 million Energy Gateway Fund to spur new private investment in fuel cells, solar, wind, energy storage and other projects with \$30 million in federal job stimulus funds and \$10 million from Ohio's state job stimulus program; and
- Repealing Ohio's tangible personal property tax on generation for wind and solar facilities that break ground this year, create Ohio jobs, and begin producing energy by 2012.

OEC Deputy Director Jack Shaner released the following statement:

“Gov. Strickland is right: Ohio can grow more jobs with more smart investments in clean energy technologies.

“Thanks to the bipartisan cooperation of the Strickland Administration and the General Assembly two years ago through passage of the Ohio Energy Bill (Senate Bill 221) and the Ohio Jobs Bill (House Bill 554), Ohio is emerging as a leader in jobs and investment in energy efficiency and wind and solar power.

“We pledge our cooperation in helping promote the Energy Gateway Fund and we urge lawmakers to begin hearings straight away on Gov. Strickland's proposal to modernize Ohio tax law to encourage more investment in utility-scale wind and solar generation.

"We urge the Administration and the General Assembly to seed an even bigger bumper crop of green jobs and green energy with other clean energy incentives, such as:

- Promote low-cost “combined heat and power” by preventing utility companies from manipulating state regulations to frustrate manufacturers from capturing waste heat from factory smokestacks and converting it to usable power;
- Make permanent the Ohio Advanced Energy Fund to enable more homeowners, farmers, churches, small and large businesses, and factory owners to lower utility costs through loans and grants for high efficiency and renewable energy products and applications.
- Extend the new law that enables municipalities to assist residents with low-cost financing of roof-top solar projects to also cover energy efficiency improvements, such as insulation and high-efficiency windows, lights, and appliances.

“Stamping “Made in Ohio” on high-efficiency appliances, light bulbs, and insulation and on component parts for wind turbines and solar panels is the ultimate testimonial for what a big

jobs machine is the clean energy sector. Gov. Strickland is on the right track: Let's make it here and sell it around the globe," concluded Shaner.