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REPORT FINDS INNOVATIVE STATE POLICIES FOR CLEAN ENERGY Ohio Could See Job Growth, Cleaner Energy, by Exploring Creative Policies

Ohio lags other states in pursuing renewable energy, but plenty of innovative models exist, according to a new report released today by the national Apollo Alliance, the Ohio Blue Green Alliance and Policy Matters Ohio. Ohio and the United States could both gain by exploring forward-thinking solutions that California, Pennsylvania and other states have embraced.

New Energy for States: Energy-Saving Policies for Governors and Legislators, available at http://www.policymattersohio.org/apollo_alliance.htm, outlines the best state-based clean energy solutions, many of which could be adopted in Ohio and the nation. This week, President Bush is traveling the country trying to draw attention to his desire to make the U.S. independent of foreign energy sources.

Apollo Alliance president **Jerome Ringo** discussed existing solutions to the problem the president outlined in his State of the Union address. “The president did a great service by admitting our addiction to oil. Our clean energy solutions could make us energy independent while creating thousands of good jobs,” said Ringo. “Ohio could take a lead by implementing a renewable portfolio standard, expanding funding mechanisms that encourage clean energy investments, promoting energy efficient appliances and pursuing other smart strategies.”

The report documents dozens of policy tools that are models for Ohio and federal policy. For example, 22 states including California, Texas and Montana have standards to increase the share of electric power from renewable sources like wind and sun. A study by the Renewable Energy Policy Project (at <http://www.policymattersohio.org/generating.htm>) showed that Ohio could gain more than 22,000 jobs in component part production if all states followed suit.

A number of states in the region and around the country have creative public-private funding mechanisms that make clean energy investments without straining budgets; Ohio’s Clean Energy Loan Fund is a very modest version of this approach.

States like New York and Missouri have adopted aggressive programs to replace oil imports with homegrown fuels like ethanol. The federal government could adopt new energy efficiency standards for products, which would dramatically reduce electrical bills while benefiting Ohio firms such as Whirlpool. According to the Center for Policy Alternatives, new national standards for just 14 products would save consumers \$75 billion on electrical bills by 2020. Additional options for keeping money in the domestic economy, reducing reliance on foreign oil and improving the environment can be found in the full report, available at www.apolloalliance.org.

The Apollo Alliance is a coalition of labor, environmental, business and community organizations, fighting for independence from foreign energy sources.

Policy Matters Ohio is a non-profit, non-partisan policy research institute, researching issue that matter to workers. This think tank is the Ohio partner for the Apollo Alliance.

The Ohio Blue-Green Alliance is an Ohio-based grassroots coalition of labor and environmental organizations.