



COPY OF REMARKS

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CONGRESSMEN WELCH ANNOUNCES NATIONAL ENERGY-EFFICIENCY INITIATIVE

Remarks by Mike Rogers, Senior Vice President, GreenHomes America

Burlington, VT — March 16, 2009 — Thank you. It's an honor to be here with Congressman Welch, the people from Efficiency Vermont, and other sharp minds.

My name is Mike Rogers. I'm the Senior Vice President of GreenHomes America. GreenHomes is the largest home performance contracting company in the country. We perform top to bottom assessments of people's homes and make improvements to increase the energy-efficiency, safety, and comfort of their homes. As an example of what's possible with the work we do, I have a 90-year old house right here in Burlington that costs us less than \$400 a year to heat—that's \$400 a year—less than some people paid last month. But I'm not here to talk about my home. I'm here to talk about a lot of homes.

First, I'd like to thank Congressman Welch for what he's doing—I believe this is one of the most important issues we face. Now you've heard this referred to as a climate change bill. And it is. With the news out of Copenhagen this week, that climate change is real, it's worse than we thought, and it's happening faster than we thought, this is important.

But Congressman Welch is doing is much more than that. Forget about climate change for a moment. What Peter is doing with this bill is actually going to be an enormous boost for the Vermont and the U.S. economy. It is going to increase our energy security and make us less dependent on foreign oil. It is going to help keep our money at home, in our local communities. Vermonters can save real money by reducing their utility costs. This bill will help homeowners insulate themselves against price increases and volatility in the energy markets and keep more of their monthly income for things putting like food on the table and saving for college rather than burning money and sending it out the chimney.

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This bill will create jobs. Jobs right here in Vermont. GreenHomes fixes houses every day. And we know that for every dozen homes we improve, we create a job at our company. The bill that Peter is introducing can help us and companies like us fix thousands of homes a year in Vermont. This is something GreenHomes America is ready to invest in, and this work will create hundreds of contracting jobs here in the state.

At GreenHomes, these are well-paying jobs with year-round employment, not seasonal jobs like much of the contracting industry. We offer comprehensive benefits, including medical, dental, 401K, generous paid holidays and vacation. So we're talking about hundreds of great jobs created in Vermont.

But there's more. As companies like GreenHomes invest and grow, we'll see double the number of jobs rippling through the community. Think about it. As we invest in a business here in Vermont we support

- Vehicles dealers
- Auto mechanics
- Material manufacturers and suppliers
- Marketing and advertising – newspaper, cable, network, radio, etc. –even though we haven't opened in Vermont we've already retained two local marketing and outreach companies—more money into the local economy.
- Uniform suppliers
- Restaurants (our guys will have money to eat out again)
- Convenience stores – as our people grab their coffee and snacks in the morning
- Office material stores (e.g., Staples and smaller businesses.)
- And on and on and on.

All of this means more jobs, more money, and stronger economic vitality in Vermont.

I'm excited about Peter's bill. We are lucky, in such a small state, to have such leaders as Congressman Welch along with Senators Sanders and Leahy. Efficiency Vermont has a strong national and international reputation. Vermont should be excited. I know that we at GreenHomes are. We're ready to continue investing in our future. Though the economy is struggling right now, this bill is the right bill, a positive step forward, a way to help us help ourselves and regain our footing and our economic strength. I'm glad to see the initiative. It encourages GreenHomes and companies like us to invest in our nation's future.

Thank you, Congressman Welch.

Thank you.

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