

# NEWS

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**DATE: JULY 28, 2010**

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## **CNAIMA Head Applauds Introduction of Bipartisan Senate Energy Package That Includes Home Star – Urges Quick Adoption**

**Washington, D.C.** – The head of America’s leading association of insulation manufacturers today applauded official Senate introduction of a bipartisan energy package that includes the Home Star energy retrofit program as a key component.

Following a Capitol Hill press conference attended by representatives of the hundreds of business, labor, energy, and environmental groups supporting Home Star, Kate Offringa, the president and CEO of the Council of the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (CNAIMA), commended Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and a bipartisan coalition of Senators for insisting that Home Star be included in the slimmed-down package.

“Home Star continues to attract broad-based and bipartisan support,” said Offringa. “More and more Senators recognize what business and labor advocates all over the country recognize: that enacting Home Star would mean an instant injection of jobs in distressed communities. The home construction and renovation industry has been flat on its back for years. Passing Home Star would provide immediate and lasting relief.” Unemployment in the housing construction business, Offringa noted, has been running two-and-a-half times the national average. Conservative estimates suggest that Home Star will generate 168,000 jobs over its first 18 months of implementation.

Reid was joined at today’s press conference by Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), both of whom praised the package’s job-creating aspects. Home Star’s bipartisan champions include Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), the chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Mark Warner (D-VA).

“Home Star is a bipartisan energy efficiency program that will not only lower consumers’ energy costs, but create American jobs that can never be outsourced,” Reid said last week in unveiling the package. The House of Representatives passed Home Star in May with 12 Republican votes; now three GOP Senators have cosponsored the measure.

“We urge the full Senate to move quickly on Home Star,” Offringa said. “The sooner Congress can pass Home Star, the quicker we can get contractors all over the country back on the job and insulation manufacturing plants running at full capacity.”

Home Star is a rebate program that encourages homeowners and home builders to install energy-efficient materials such as insulation. Most insulation materials are manufactured here in the U.S.; those jobs cannot be shipped overseas, Offringa noted. Environmental Protection Agency studies say that Home Star will help America conserve energy by enabling homeowners to reduce their utility bills by between 20 and 40 percent.

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**About the Council of NAIMA**

*The Council of the North America Insulation Manufacturers Association advocates for policies and programs that encourage and incentivize increased energy efficiency through insulation in new and existing residential and commercial buildings and industrial applications. Membership in the Council of NAIMA is open to thermal and acoustical insulation manufacturers – regardless of insulation product type – and their suppliers located in North America.*