

# ALLIANCE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Media Advisory: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 8, 2008

## Launch of Alliance for Renewable Energy – ARE

### North American coalition promotes Renewable Energy Payments (REPs) – the “World’s Most Effective Renewable Energy Policy”

**San Diego, California** – The Alliance for Renewable Energy (ARE), a coalition of businesses, non-profits, energy experts, legislators, and citizens, will be launched on October 12th at a pre-event of the *Solar Power International 08* conference in San Diego, California. ARE’s mission is to promote Renewable Energy Payments (REPs) legislation in states and provinces throughout the USA and Canada.

REPs, also called Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) in Europe and elsewhere, are legislative policies in over 40 countries. Lois Barber and Paul Gipe, Co-chairs of ARE, state, “REPs have proven to be the most widespread and effective legislation for the promotion of renewables.” “Our mission,” they add, “is to bring REPs to North America where they can help to rapidly increase our shift from fossil fuels to renewables, and in doing so improve our energy security and generate hundreds of thousands of new manufacturing jobs.”

ARE will build on the recent passage of federal renewable investment and production tax credits by urging policymakers to now focus on proven policies that have led to the rapid deployment of renewable energy throughout the world. REPs can be introduced at the state, provincial, and municipal level.

“Good REP legislation is simple and effective,” states Gipe. It provides access to the grid for all and pays a fair price for the clean energy produced for a period of 15-20 years. The long-term contracts between producers and utilities create a stable investment environment for borrowers and lenders. Growth in renewable energy creates jobs and stimulates the economy. REP type legislation has been primarily responsible for making Germany, Spain, and Denmark leaders in renewable energy. Germany now has 300,000 employed in renewables and is cited as a renewable technology “export machine.”

John Burges, an investment advisor and ARE Steering Committee member from Florida, states, “REP policies democratize renewable energy.” He notes, “Some renewable energy policies such as tradeable credits simply give big corporations control of renewable energy production and the lion’s share of the profits at the expense of ratepayers. REPs level the playing field and allow homeowners, farmers, small and large businesses to all profit by becoming clean energy producers. REPs truly are ‘energy freedom’ for producers, and consistently have been shown to be the best value policy for ratepayers”.

ARE is promoting REP legislation in many states, including, California, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Washington, Illinois, Rhode Island, and Hawaii.

ARE’s website, [AllianceForRenewableEnergy.org](http://AllianceForRenewableEnergy.org), lists over 200 REP endorsers. Its Steering Committee includes executives of solar and wind companies, non-profits, investors, energy experts, and state legislators.

Barber adds, “Throughout the world, REP legislation is encouraging entrepreneurship, expanding the green energy marketplace, creating jobs and wealth, and stimulating the economy while significantly reducing pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and reliance on imported energy. It is time for REPs legislation to help make the USA and Canada leaders in renewable energy.”

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