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OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE DISTRICT 2**

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**State Representatives Announce Energy Efficiency Program for  
Home and Business Owners**

*Bill would promote energy efficiency, reduce costs for homes and businesses and create jobs*

SALEM – Today a bipartisan group of legislators, joined by Congressman Earl Blumenauer, unveiled the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Technology Act of 2009 (EEAST). The bill, HB 2626, would make it easier for home and business owners to implement energy efficient and renewable energy projects in their homes or businesses.

“I am happy to join with my colleagues across the isle on this worthwhile project,” said Rep. Freeman a chief sponsor of this bill. “Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to meet the challenges of climate change and create new jobs.”

The bill, also chief sponsored by Representatives Jules Bailey (D-Portland), Tobias Read (D-Beaverton) and Chris Edwards (D-Eugene) has gained wide support from members of both chambers and both sides of the aisle.

“As homeowners across the state struggle to pay their heating bills and unemployment rises, we must use the tools we have to help,” said Rep. Jules Bailey (D-Portland), a chief sponsor of the bill.

“This is not a partisan issue,” said Rep. Read. “Our task is to reduce greenhouse gas pollution in ways that work for Oregon and put our state in the best competitive position.”

EEAST would expand the Oregon Department of Energy’s energy efficiency and renewable energy financing program to meet the energy and job challenges Oregon faces today with a combination of public and private capital.

“This initiative joins investors, entrepreneurs and workers with regulators and policymakers to make Oregon more competitive while delivering to Oregonians more energy for their dollar,” said Jeffrey King of Pacific Crest Securities, who supports the bill.

Many efficiency investments have an immediate payback. By making it easier for Oregon consumers and businesses to access the capital and technical expertise to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, EEAST will help put Oregonians to work on projects that decrease energy use and energy bills while helping Oregon meet our carbon emissions goals.

“The implementation of this project can start putting people to work and cutting energy costs by July,” said Rep. Edwards.

EEAST has no long term cost to Oregon's General Fund. It is financed through state bonding and private loans that are paid back over a long period of time by property owners. The bill provides a mechanism to bring in grant money to work in concert with the loan program, and most property owners will see a net decrease in their utility bill.

"This whole thing came about with all of us sitting around the table trying to figure out how to create jobs." said Rep. Freeman, "This bill proves that, working together, we can come up with innovative ideas that meet the challenges of today."

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