

Washington, D.C. – Today, Rep. Walz voted to boost the American clean energy economy by creating nearly 170,000 jobs, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and saving American families \$9 billion over 10 years. The Home Star Jobs Bill would provide rebates to homeowners who install energy-saving products and reduce energy use in their homes.

“This bill will revitalize American innovation and help make the investments we need to grow and build our clean energy industries. It will also help homeowners save money on their energy bills as they make their homes more energy efficient.” said Rep Walz. “America has been at the forefront of every major technological advancement of the last century and I believe southern Minnesota has a unique opportunity to become a national leader in the energy that will fuel the 21st century.”

"The Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010 would provide a solid framework to create American jobs and promote a new clean energy economy in southern Minnesota," said Randy Kehr, Executive Director of the Albert Lea Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce. "We appreciate the Congressman's support for this bill and for his leadership in creating jobs and opportunities for American businesses."

The bill features two levels of rebates that will help an estimated 3 million American homeowners. The Silver Star program would provide up-front rebates of up to \$3,000 for the installation of proven energy-saving technologies, such as insulation, duct sealing, window and door improvements, air sealing, and advanced water heaters. The Gold Star program rewards homeowners with up to \$8,000 for conducting a comprehensive energy audit and substantially reducing their energy use at home.

This bill would boost our construction and manufacturing industries in the short term by creating jobs immediately. More than 90% of the materials and products used in eligible measures are made in the U.S. In the long run, it will help rebuild the foundation of our economy by encouraging American innovation and entrepreneurship in the growing clean energy industry.

This legislation builds on tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements in the Recovery Act. Through the end of 2010, homeowners can receive a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of these improvements, up to \$1,500. More information is available at <http://www.energysavers.gov/financial>

The Home Star Energy Retrofit Act has received bipartisan support, and has been endorsed by a broad range of business, labor, environmental, and consumer groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Home Builders.