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Contact: LuAnn Canipe (Miller) (202) 225 -6089/email: luann.canipe@mail.house.gov

Federal Funds Will Create N.C. Jobs, Promote Alternative Fuels, Aid Conservation

RALEIGH – **Rep. Brad Miller (NC-13)** today met with officials at The North Carolina Energy Office to hear first-hand how \$8 million in federal Recovery Act funds are being awarded to 27 public and private agencies to promote the use of alternative fuels, make commercial and industrial buildings more energy efficient and provide for greater energy efficiency in transportation.

The projects are estimated to create about 710 jobs and inject approximately \$16.1 million into the state's economy. Nearly \$2.3 million of the funding has been obligated to the 13th District. The projects are being funded through three initiatives: alternative fuels and technology; energy efficiency for commercial, industrial and large nonprofit buildings and energy efficient transportation.

Earlier this week, **Rep. Miller** joined more than 80 grantees at one of three workshops entitled "Putting Recovery Grant Funds to Work" organized by the N.C. Energy Office and the U.S. Dept. of Energy to help federal Recovery Act grantees expedite their programs.

"It was important to talk with grantees about what they were hoping to achieve with their programs and to hear about their efforts for accountability," Miller said. "It was equally important today to hear first-hand from the North Carolina Energy Office about how the Recovery funding is committed."

The following are details of the grant awards in the 13th District:

ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND ADVANCED VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY

Advanced Energy, Raleigh (Wake County) -- \$500,000 to install electric vehicle charging stations in the Research Triangle and in Asheville and encourage the purchase of Nissan LEAF all-electric automobiles. Total cost of the project is \$1.7 million.

City of Raleigh (Wake County) -- \$125,000 to install 15 to 20 electric vehicle charging stations in "high-frequented" public areas to support the city's ongoing effort to develop an electric vehicle infrastructure in the city. Total cost of the project is \$250,000.

Kargo, Raleigh (Wake County) -- \$105,500 – to convert existing 10,000-gallon petroleum underground storage tanks to biodiesel and dispense B20 (a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel). Total cost of the project is \$118,960.

N.C. State University Solar Center, Raleigh (Wake County) -- \$500,000 to distribute six grants to partners to support equipment purchases, contracting, installation and costs of advance technology vehicle purchases. Total cost of the project is \$589,096.

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, LARGE NONPROFIT SECTOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Biogen Idec, Research Triangle Park (Wake) -- \$138,140 to optimize the efficiency of the existing ventilation systems in its laboratory space by implementing a building-wide ventilation flow rate reduction and unoccupied laboratory setback control system. Total cost of the project is \$276,637.

Box Board Products, Greensboro (Guilford County) -- \$150,000 to replace the 400-W High Intensity lights in its 335,000-sf production facility with T5HO fluorescent lights and upgrade inefficient furnaces with high efficiency direct fired furnaces. Total cost of the project is \$262,025.

Friendliest Hotel, Greensboro (Guilford County) -- \$500,000 to install variable frequency drives on all air handlers over 1-Hp, replace existing building supply and exhaust air systems with a fresh air make-up system (on-demand and energy recovery ventilation components), add a heat recovery chiller to the existing chiller system, and update incandescent lighting fixtures with LEDs and standard plumbing fixtures with low-flow fixtures throughout the O. Henry Hotel in Greensboro to LEED Existing Buildings standards. Total cost of the project is \$875,000.

JDC Manufacturing, Reidsville (Rockingham County) – \$250,645 to replace its current T12 lights with T5HO fluorescent lights, disconnect 13 old, inefficient furnaces and replace them with two high efficiency furnaces, and install a 50-kW rooftop solar photovoltaic array. Total cost of the project is \$438,627.

The North Carolina Energy Office oversees distribution of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds in four areas: The State Energy Program; the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants; Weatherization Assistance Program and the ENERGY STAR Appliance Replacement and Rebate Program. Close to 90 percent of the Recovery Funding has been obligated for the state's Energy Programs.

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