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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY REPORT HOLDS KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAWMAKERS

February 6 Release to include Roundtable on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Sustainable Energy Institute (SEI) will release a major new report on U.S. energy policy on **Wednesday, February 6 at 10:30 a.m., in Room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building**. The report provides SEI's recommendations on a broad range of energy policy questions that will be debated next week in the Senate energy bill and in proposed legislation on power plant emissions. The recommendations build upon interview remarks by ten leading government, industry and NGO leaders, whom SEI has selected to receive "Sustainable Energy Top Ten" Awards.

Among SEI's recommendations to Washington lawmakers:

1. The single most important and achievable near-term measure to reduce U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and other air pollutants is to raise fuel efficiency standards for all classes of motor vehicles.
2. New technologies for producing and efficiently using energy must be researched and developed more aggressively, and incentives provided for their deployment.
3. Lawmakers should recognize that many measures to cut GHG emissions will save rather than cost us money, and that staying out of the Kyoto Protocol could cost rather than save us money. Congress should establish a domestic "cap and trade" system now, with an initially modest cap.
4. The U.S. must work constructively with developing nations to reduce GHG emissions as their economies expand.
5. Lawmakers should provide incentives for the construction of a natural gas pipeline from Alaska's Prudhoe Bay to the continental U.S.
6. The U.S. should not weaken "New Source Review" enforcement without first establishing new emissions standards applicable to new as well as existing pollution sources.

The report also outlines specific recommendations for the energy and automotive industries and for the general public. SEI's findings and recommendations appear on pages 9 - 11 of the report.

The Sustainable Energy Top Ten awardees, interviewed in SEI's report, include:

- Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
- Congressman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), Chairman, House Science Committee

- Lord Browne of Madingley, Group Chief Executive, BP plc
- Governor Parris Glendening (D) of Maryland
- Senator Jim Jeffords (I-VT), Chairman, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
- Jonathan Lash, President, World Resources Institute
- Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Ranking Minority Member, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
- Jennifer Morgan, Climate Change Campaign Director, World Wildlife Fund
- John Rowe, President, Exelon Corp.
- Takehisa Yaegashi, Toyota Motor Corp., chief engineer of the hybrid Prius

The following is a sampling of the awardees' interview remarks:

Bingaman: "The biggest Alaska energy issue is not ANWR oil, but Arctic gas. That's the real deal."

Boehlert: "We're not saying you're going to have to curtail your driving habits, or sacrifice your vehicle of choice."

McCain: "There's going to be a world marketplace for buying and selling emission reductions, and we are now running a big risk that American companies will be left out."

Rowe: "We need some kind of federal position on how much is required on carbon and when."

Following the release of the report, SEI will host a roundtable discussion including the Top Ten awardees or their representatives and other leaders from industry, environmental organizations and the Bush Administration. This session, moderated by SEI board member Neil Numark, is expected to spark candid discussion of major points now under debate in the Senate.

The media is invited to attend the entire event. Advance copies of the SEI Top Ten report are available for review. The report may also be accessed at SEI's website, www.s-e-i.org.

The Sustainable Energy Top Ten Awards project was co-sponsored by ABB; the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy; the Congress for the New Urbanism; the Federation of American Scientists; the Nuclear Energy Institute; Numark Associates, Inc.; Pfizer; the Renewable Energy Policy Project; and Stonyfield Farm.

The Sustainable Energy Institute, founded in 2000, is dedicated to improving public awareness and understanding worldwide of the debates over future energy supply and demand options and their implications, and favors the application of new and cleaner technologies to meet the nation's growing energy needs. Led by respected scholars and thinkers in the energy and environmental area, SEI strives to cut through the political rhetoric and promote intelligent debate on sustainable energy solutions. For more information about SEI, go to www.s-e-i.org.