



For Planning Purposes
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MEDIA ADVISORY

----- Business Leaders, Legislators and Clean Energy Advocates Hold Factory Tour

AmeriStar Manufacturing and The Retrofit Companies discuss vast potential for energy efficiency business development in Minnesota

As the U.S. Senate considers clean energy and job creation legislation, Minnesota businesses offer real-world examples of how clean energy and efficiency investments create jobs and save money.

AmeriStar Manufacturing, The Retrofit Companies (TRC), Fresh Energy and the Izaak Walton League of America will offer a tour of AmeriStar's recently updated facilities to demonstrate how investing in energy efficiency improvements spurs job growth and saves money for Minnesota businesses, consumers and families. After TRC upgraded the lighting system in AmeriStar's factory, AmeriStar's savings are \$7,895 per year, ensuring the investment will more than pay for itself in less than two years, and produce cost savings years into the future.

WHO: **Joe Boher** (Controller – AmeriStar Manufacturing, Inc.)
 Steve Kath (President – The Retrofit Companies),
 State Senator Kathy Sheran, State Representative Kathy Brynaert (invited), staff
 for US Senator Amy Klobuchar, US Senator Al Franken (invited) and Congressman
 Tim Walz (invited)
 Michael Noble (Executive Director – Fresh Energy),
 Bill Grant (Associate Executive Director – the Izaak Walton League of America,
 Midwest office)
 Jamie Fitzke (Lighting Consultant–MN Center for Energy and Environment)

WHAT: Facility tour and media availability

PHOTO OP: Newly retrofitted facility, manufacturing workers on the job at newly retrofitted
 facility, touring legislators and business leaders

WHERE: AmeriStar Manufacturing, Inc., 2600 9th Ave., Mankato, MN 56001

WHEN: Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009 – 11:00am CST

WHY: A growing number of success stories like the AmeriStar facility and multiple government and independent studies show that even moderate investments in energy efficiency can spur long-term economic savings and growth for Minnesota businesses, homes, schools and hospitals. The AmeriStar facility is one example of how government incentives and policies can spur economic growth and create cost savings for businesses and consumers by passing clean energy policies.

AmeriStar Manufacturing was established in 1908 and has grown to be a full service manufacturing company. AmeriStar provides sheet metal fabrication, precision laserjet and waterjet cutting, tooling, welding, and assembly, as well as short run stamping and long run stamping. Recently, AmeriStar's Mankato facility was retrofitted by The Retrofit Companies.

The Retrofit Companies began doing lighting retrofits in the 1980s. In 1992 they became a full-service electrical contractor. Retrofit Recycling was created to address the universal and hazardous waste disposal needs of clients. In 13 years of business, The Retrofit Companies have created over 8,000 jobs in Minnesota.

The Izaak Walton League of America (www.iwla.org) is a grassroots national organization protecting America's outdoors through education, community-based conservation, and outdoor recreation.

Fresh Energy (www.fresh-energy.org) is a nonprofit organization leading the transition to a clean, efficient and fair energy system.

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