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**BI-PARTISAN TEAM JOHN KITZHABER, BEN WESTLUND JOIN
FORCES ON CLEAN ENERGY JOBS MEASURE**

Call for an *Oregon Apollo Program* To Keep State Ahead of the Pack

Former Governor John Kitzhaber and State Senator Ben Westlund today filed a groundbreaking ballot measure to ensure that Oregon remains a leader in clean and renewable energy and moves toward independence from foreign oil.

Said John Kitzhaber: “Oregonians are hungry for positive solutions that will strengthen our state’s economy, and this measure will create quality jobs across our state in the fast-growing clean energy sector.”

Key elements of the “Oregon Apollo” measure include incentives to boost in-state production of biofuels to create new opportunities for Oregon businesses and farmers while making the state more energy independent. The measure also calls for creation of unique clean energy Centers of Excellence in both urban and rural areas to ensure that Oregon workers and businesses gain access to top-flight training and technical assistance key to economic innovation.

Added Chief Petitioner Ben Westlund: “Too often of late, extreme partisan politics in Salem has kept common sense solutions from getting through, like last session’s bi-partisan biofuels package. This measure is a way for Oregonians to send a clear message that it’s time to get serious about smart policies and investments that pay dividends – both for our state’s economy and our nation’s energy security.”

The campaign will officially launch in the next few weeks but is already seeking volunteers. Last weekend it won the support of the Oregon Bus Project, a non-partisan organization that engages young people in politics.

Campaign manager Mari Anne Gest said: “The Oregon Apollo Measure will bring together Oregonians from all walks of life – business and labor, rancher and farmer, young and old, conservationist and logger, who all understand that foreign oil dependence is hurting our state and our nation. This ballot measure is a first step on the road to new quality jobs, energy independence and a new results-oriented politics, and we invite Oregonians to join this new movement for constructive change – by signing up at www.oregonapollo.org” For more on the campaign: mgest@oregonapollo.com