



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

## **Silvia Lucero Remarks to 2018 Congressional Clean Energy Expo and Policy Forum**

**July 2018**

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you Scott for that introduction. I would also like to thank the staff at ESSI for organizing this event and thank all the Senators, Congressmen, their staff and energy professionals who are attending and supporting today's forum.

This is a great opportunity to bring us all together—prominent leaders to discuss the connection between America's future economy and its energy policies.

As you heard my name is Silvia Lucero and I am from the BlueGreen Alliance. At the BlueGreen Alliance we believe solving our nations environmental challenges will create and sustain good jobs, ensure fair trade and a build a strong clean energy economy.

**What are clean energy jobs?** Most Americans might answer that they are solar and wind jobs. But, we know and are working to help the public understand that clean energy jobs also include energy efficiency workers—both the workers installing the products and the workers manufacturing them here.

Energy efficiency is the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest energy source** in the United States.

There are **2.25 million Americans** working in energy efficiency—including manufacturing and installing efficiency products. We think this is a conservative number since it only accounts for workers using products that are ENERGY STAR rated.

There are thousands of products that do not go through the ENERGY STAR certification rating for a variety of reasons ... but those products are in energy efficiency sectors and those workers making and installing them are in the energy efficiency sector as well ... just not accounted for.

By the official numbers, some **315,000** manufacturing jobs are within energy efficiency. 1 out of every 4 of those jobs is in appliance manufacturing.



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**67,000** new jobs were created in the energy efficiency sector last year. While some of you may know this, I want to draw attention to the fact that 40% of those jobs were in **manufacturing**. And it is estimated manufacturing jobs in the energy efficiency sector will grow another **10%** this year.

Nearly 60% of energy efficiency jobs are in construction ... both new and retrofit. That's 1 out of every 6 construction jobs.

It is promising to see sustained job growth in energy efficiency and we need to do everything we can to keep that growing.

We all know that America continues to lose its middle class. But manufacturing and construction jobs historically have delivered good jobs with family sustainable wages and benefits. Those are the type of jobs we need more of.

That's why we need effective policy that increases energy efficiency requirements, drives technological innovation and creates market demand.

**Over 70%** of energy efficiency jobs are in small businesses. (ACEEE 2017)

Energy efficiency jobs are found in every state in America.

Energy efficiency jobs hire veterans. (E2)

Energy efficiency jobs create opportunities for those with a high school diploma or less.

We want investment in energy efficiency to work overtime. That means incentivizing or requiring the use of energy efficiency products made in America. That's how we can revitalize U.S. manufacturing.

Utility incentives ... government rebates ... procurement policies ... product rating systems and building codes can all help to achieve this.

Don't be fooled when you're told that U.S. manufacturers can't deliver on energy efficiency products. BGA has compiled a list of more than 3,000 U.S. facilities manufacturing energy efficient products.

These can be found in our **FREE** database, **BuildingClean.com**. We follow the ENERGY STAR product categories of appliances, HVAC, windows, doors and



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skylights, roofing, insulation, plumbing, sealants and lighting. We also have added consumer water filtration systems, a growing concern as our infrastructure ages.

Energy efficiency investments can do a lot more for this country than what they are doing now.

Yes energy efficiency saves consumers money.

Yes energy efficiency improves school and work attendance.

And yes energy efficiency even improves occupants' health ... but that is a whole other discussion.

Clearly additional investments are needed, but even if we just strengthen procurement policies we can increase American jobs **without even** increasing investments.

Linking energy efficiency retrofits with buy local procurement policies can vastly increase the number of manufacturing jobs - the base of a strong and competitive country. Some states and utilities are already doing this.  
(Examples: IL and Michigan)

But this should be done across our nation and the federal government should show leadership in this area.

We must seize this opportunity to enact policies and make investments that will grow American jobs and improve job quality in energy efficiency installation and manufacturing.

Let's work together to get more "Buy American" policies into government spending.

Thank you for attending this panel and I invite you to come to the Building Clean table at the expo for more information.