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CONTACT: Diane S. Shea (703-299-8800, x-11) <mailto:dshea@naseo.org>.

State Energy Officials Endorse National Commitment to Energy Efficiency

(Washington, DC – July 31, 2006) The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) joined over 50 leading organizations across the country in endorsing a new National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, delivered through electric and gas utilities and others dedicated to energy efficiency, to meet the nation's growing demand for energy in our homes, buildings, and industries. This Action Plan, if fully implemented, could help defer the need for 40 new 500 megawatt-power plants, avoid the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of over 35 million vehicles, lower the costs of air pollution controls, and reduce prices for natural gas.

The Plan was developed by a Leadership Group that includes 23 electric and gas utilities, 7 state utility regulators, and more than 30 other organizations (list follows). NASEO was represented on the Leadership Group by William "Dub" Taylor, Texas Energy Office Director, and Larry Shirley, Director of the North Carolina State Energy Office.

The National Action Plan brings together leading energy sector organizations representing different stakeholder perspectives to determine how best to promote greater investment in energy efficiency by the customers of electric and gas utilities – covering most of the energy used in American homes, buildings and industries or about 60 percent of the natural gas and electricity used nation-wide. This collaborative approach is essential as greater investment in energy efficiency requires a concerted effort by customers, utilities, regulators, states, and other stakeholders.

NASEO supports the Action Plan recommendations for overcoming barriers to energy efficiency and spurring greater investment, and commits to work with energy offices across the country to help implement the Action Plan's recommendations. State energy directors continue to emphasize that energy efficiency is available in significant quantities and at lower costs than new supply for the foreseeable future. Capturing this untapped energy efficiency resource would offer substantial economic and environmental benefits, not to mention helping the nation become more independent from foreign sources of energy.

Peter Smith, NASEO's chairman and President of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, commented that: "State energy offices stand ready to work with utilities and public service commissions to help implement the recommendations of the Leadership Group. Significant efficiency gains will require a partnership between all the stakeholders."

For more information on the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/eeactionplan.htm>

More information on state energy programs can be found at <http://www.naseo.org/>.