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Ceres, BICEP Praise House Passage

of Landmark Climate and Energy Bill

“One of the Most Important Votes of Our Era;” Goal as Legislation’s

Journey Continues is an Even Stronger Bill Based in Sound Science

BOSTON (June 26) - The Ceres coalition of investors, environmentalists and public interest groups and BICEP – Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy – issued the following joint statement on today’s U.S. House passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES):

“This is one of the most important votes of our era. Congress has taken a vital step toward launching the first national action plan to address climate change, and toward moving America onto the much-needed path to a vibrant clean energy economy. Our nation’s workers, consumers, health and environment will all be the winners when this bill reaches final passage.

“Chairmen Waxman and Markey, Speaker Pelosi and the House leadership, and all those who voted for this bill truly deserve enormous credit.

“At the same time we recognize that ACES is just the start of an effective long-term climate and energy policy. In that spirit we say to the Congress and President Obama that our work is not done. The underpinning of this landmark bill is that all its parts work best when working together, so we hope to see a strengthening of the bill’s energy efficiency and renewable energy standards – which will make pollution-reduction targets less costly and ease impacts on consumers.

“We know the politics of momentous issues can be difficult. But while Republicans and Democrats can bargain with each other, in the end neither side can bargain with Nature if humans don’t do enough to prevent wide-scale climate disruption. So we respectfully remind those who have so skillfully brought us this far both that the stakes are quite high and, happily, that the strongest possible bill means the strongest possible economy, the cleanest possible environment, and the healthiest possible future for all Americans.

“A globally-competitive clean energy economy, the environmental benefits it brings and the enhanced security of less reliance on imported energy are a three-way win for America. Let’s win by leading – and set an example the world can follow on climate and clean energy policy into the bargain.”

Ceres is the largest coalition of investors, environmental and public interest organizations in North America.

BICEP members include Levi Strauss & Co., Nike, Starbucks, Sun Microsystems, The Timberland Company, Aspen Skiing Company, Clif Bar & Company, eBay, Gap Inc., Jones Lang LaSalle, The North Face, Seventh Generation and Symantec.