



GREEN ROOF TAX INCENTIVE INTRODUCED TO US CONGRESS

Senator Maria Cantwell (WA) Introduces Green Roof Tax Incentive

For immediate release [January 30, 2009] Senator Maria Cantwell from Washington State introduced the **Clean Energy Stimulus and Investment Assurance Act of 2009 (S.320)** legislation on Monday January 26 that if adopted, would provide financial incentives for commercial and household green roof installation. Green Roofs for Healthy Cities and the American Society of Landscape Architects worked together to help draft the section of the bill that is focused on the green roof incentive.

“This is a watershed moment for the green roof industry”, said Steven W. Peck, Founder and President of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, a non-profit industry association. “This bill will deliver an enormous number of green collar jobs, not just today, but also in five years from now, while also saving energy, improving stormwater management, cooling cities, cleansing the air and beautifying our rooftops.”

Under section 506 of the bill, residential and commercial property owners will receive a 30% tax credit for qualified green roof expenditures. The tax credit applies to both new and retrofit projects, and requires that at least 50% of the roof area be covered with a green roof. If adopted, the bill will provide much needed, locally and regionally sourced green employment in areas such as design, manufacturing, installation and ongoing maintenance.

“In these times of economic uncertainty, growing the green economy and investing in clean energy technologies is the key to job growth and breaking the United States’ debilitating dependence on foreign oil,” said Senator Cantwell. “While installing a green roof may seem like a small step, these upgrades save energy, filter and absorb pollution, and store carbon. As individuals and businesses continue to look for ways to combat high energy costs and improve the health of their neighborhoods and environment, providing green roof incentives just makes sense.”

With the introduction of the new, multi-disciplinary Green Roof Professional (GRP) designation at its 7th Annual Conference, Awards and Trade Show in Atlanta, Georgia, the green roof industry is well positioned to provide outstanding green roof design, products and installation services to meet the new demands that will be generated from this bill. Already jurisdictions such as the City of Chicago, New York State, Philadelphia, Toronto and Portland already have chosen to invest directly in green roof infrastructure because of the multiple economic and environmental benefits they provide.

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities – North America, Inc. was founded in 1999 as a small network of public and private organizations and is now a rapidly growing 501(c)(6), not-for-profit industry association for green roof experts in North America. Our mission is to increase the awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of green roofs and green walls, and other forms of living architecture through education, advocacy, professionalism and celebrations of excellence. www.greenroofs.org

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