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EEBC Hosts Energy Leaders to Discuss Economic Benefits of Energy-Efficiency Policies

Feb. 6, 2015 (Denver, Colorado) –Today, the Energy Efficiency Business Coalition (EEBC) hosted a building tour and business roundtable to highlight energy efficiency investments in downtown Denver. EEBC president, Ravi Malhotra was joined by Governor John Hickenlooper and leaders from national and Colorado-based energy efficiency businesses to tour 1660 Lincoln Street where the building’s owner and operator, Unico Properties LLC, recently completed a major energy-efficiency upgrade. Hickenlooper, and leading companies in the building industry, including Ameresco, Carrier, Schneider Electric, Siemens, and United Technologies discussed strategies that can help Colorado save energy, reduce pollution and create jobs.

In Colorado alone, the energy-efficiency industry provides over 14,000 jobs and creates more than \$1 billion in local economic development. The national businesses at today’s event have a significant presence in Colorado and contribute to these economic investments.

"Energy efficiency is a winner for Colorado," Governor Hickenlooper said. "Keeping energy costs down by providing financial incentives for energy efficiency ensures that Colorado will continue to attract new businesses, create jobs and grow the economy."

EEBC, an alliance of energy-efficiency businesses working with utilities, municipalities, and the state legislature to promote energy-efficiency policies and programs in Colorado, hosted the event.

"EEBC members know that energy-efficiency makes good economic sense. Indeed, energy efficiency retrofits for existing buildings offer the best ‘bang for your buck’ in terms of energy savings, dollar savings, and total carbon emissions reductions for every dollar invested," said Ravi Malhotra, EEBC President. Today, Colorado businesses are highlighting and celebrating the many accomplishments in the energy efficiency arena. We are also working together to identify ways to help the state scale up its energy-efficiency programs in support of new policies, such as EPA’s emerging Clean Power Plan," Malhotra added.

Unico Properties, a Seattle-based real estate investment and operating company, launched the energy-efficiency retrofit of 1660 Lincoln in 2013 and it was completed in 2014. At the time the sustainability work was initiated, the 1970s vintage building was approximately 60-percent occupied. Today, building occupancy has increased to 80 percent. This morning, community and business leaders toured the property to learn more about the efficiency improvements that Unico implemented. The results of these efforts have decreased the building’s energy use intensity by 56 percent and reduced energy costs by 22 percent—netting savings of approximately \$120,000 annually. Unico helped pay for the project by leveraging various state-approved energy-efficiency rebates through Xcel Energy.

Unico’s Senior Sustainability Manager, Adam Knoff, extolled the property “as a model of energy efficiency in Colorado. This ambitious project proved that investing in energy efficiency has a significant impact both economically and environmentally.”

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The overhaul was installed by Carrier, a leader in high-technology heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration solutions, and an EEBC member. “The building system improvements implemented at 1660 Lincoln included our highly efficient Carrier heating, ventilating and air-conditioning system, which will reduce energy costs by 22 percent annually,” said Kelly Romano, president, intelligent building technologies, United Technologies Building & Industrial Systems. “Investing in energy efficiency can strengthen our economy and improve the environment.”

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About EEBC

Energy Efficiency Business Coalition (EEBC) was formed in 2007 to be the primary source of information, influence and interconnection for the numerous businesses that are involved in the manufacturing, distribution, installation, sales and marketing of energy efficiency technologies and services. EEBC is the only organization in the nation whose primary focus is to increase the business potential of the energy efficiency industry, at the local level. The member-funded coalition works with utilities, municipalities, and state legislature to promote energy efficiency policies and programs that support the business objectives of the member businesses. For more information, visit <http://eebco.org/> and follow #EEBC1 on Twitter.

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