

BREAKING NEWS: Violence escalates in Ukraine

Obama Signs Economic Recovery Legislation; Solar Industry Poised to Create 110,000...

Tue Feb 17, 2009 3:27pm EST

* Reuters is not responsible for the content in this press release.

[0 COMMENTS](#)

Obama Signs Economic Recovery Legislation; Solar Industry Poised to Create 110,000 Jobs Over Next Two Years

Obama Visit to Colorado is Fitting, Highlights How the Right Policies Can Drive Investment, Growth in Solar Industry

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 /PRNewswire/ -- Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) President & CEO Rhone Resch today commended President Obama for signing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law in Denver, Colorado and commented on how it will help stimulate the solar industry immediately.

"I applaud President Obama for his leadership in crafting an economic recovery bill that will put the country back on track as the economic leader of the world. It is fitting that he has decided to sign the bill into law in a state-of-the-art building, powered by solar energy," said Resch. "This building is an example of what is happening throughout the U.S.; small businesses installing cutting-edge solar technology funded by local nonprofit project finance resulting in huge taxpayer benefits."

"The solar industry is poised to lead the new, clean energy economy and the strong solar provisions in this legislation will help give hundreds of thousands of out-of-work Americans a job that they can be proud of. The solar energy provisions in this bill will help create 60,000 jobs in the solar industry in 2009 alone and a total of 110,000 over the next two years," said Resch.

"But this stimulus bill alone won't sustain the clean energy economy that is our future. We encourage Congress and the Obama Administration to implement long term policies that will make clean solar energy available to every American," said Resch. "We need policies like a national renewable portfolio standard with specific mandates for solar, investment in our transmission infrastructure and a way to address climate change that gives credit to clean sources like solar and reinvests proceeds to increase solar installation."

President Obama demonstrated his confidence in the solar jobs engine by visiting the solar installation at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science today before signing the economic recovery legislation. They were joined by representatives from Namaste Solar Electric, Inc, a Colorado-based employee-owned solar electric company and the Partnership for Sustainability. The 100-kilowatt system, the largest of its kind in Colorado, was financed by no-interest revolving loans from the Partnership for Sustainability, a local non-profit dedicated to supporting solar energy installation.

Namaste Solar, which installed the solar panels on the museum's rooftop, is an example of how government policies can create the next generation of small businesses in the U.S. With offices in Denver and Boulder, Namaste has grown from 3 to 60 employees in the last three years and is anticipating growth of 20 to 40 percent in the next two years.

"With today's signing of the economic stimulus bill by President Obama, Namaste and solar companies like ours are ready to create jobs in Colorado and across the country. We are ready to put our economy back on track," said Eriks Brolis, Director of External Affairs for Namaste.

"This will help empower small businesses around the United States to organize their residents to retrofit homes with energy efficiency and renewable energy devices," added Brolis.

There are more than 3,400 solar energy companies, from manufacturers to installers, across the nation in every state. Colorado is home to more than 190 such companies and expects to gain 14,000 permanent jobs from the solar energy industry by 2016.

"Colorado is a great example of how solar energy can work in all 50 states

- 1 [Ukraine police charge protesters after nation's bloodiest day](#) | [VIDEO](#)
- 2 [Venezuela opposition leader surrenders, protesters flood streets](#)
- 3 [First U.S. bitcoin ATMs to open soon in Seattle, Austin](#)
- 4 [Four killed in Thai clashes; PM to face charges over rice scheme](#) | [VIDEO](#)
- 5 [Several injured when Montana-bound United flight hits turbulence](#)

Follow Reuters[Facebook](#)[Twitter](#)[RSS](#)[YouTube](#)**RECOMMENDED**

[The soaring cost of success on the slopes...](#)



[Greek statue found in Gaza \(1:09\)](#)



[Monique Lhuiller shows her darker side \(1:16\)](#)

nationally to grow the economy and create jobs," added Resch.

[Back to top](#)

lorado:
http://www.seia.org/galleries/pdf/NCI_Colorado_fact_sheet.pdf
 Solar Companies in Colorado
http://www.seia.org/galleries/state-fact-sheets/Colorado_2008.pdf
 Solar Provisions in H.R. 1 The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: http://seia.org/galleries/pdf/exec_summary_of_final_bill_2_27_09.pdf
 SOURCE: Solar Energy Industries Association

[Support & Contact](#) | [Support](#) | [Corrections](#)

[About](#) | [Home](#) | [+1-202-682-0556](#) | [Sign In](#) | ext. 4, mhanis@seia.org, or Jared Blanton, +1-202-682-0556 ext. 96, jblanton@seia.org, both of Solar Energy Industries Association, or Mar...
 Connect with Reuters: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [RSS](#) | [Podcast](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Mobile](#)

[About](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [AdChoices](#) | [Copyright](#)

More From Reuters

Thomson Reuters is the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals.

- **U.S. senator drops bombshell during VW plant union vote** | 12 Feb
- **Plushenko mocked after Sochi exit** | 14 Feb
- **Anger at hockey goal melts political ice in Russia** | 16 Feb
- **Russia says Syria aid draft could open door to military action** | 13 Feb
- **Obama lashes out at Republicans on Volkswagen-union organizing fight** | 14 Feb

An ultra-low latency infrastructure for electronic trading and data distribution

A connected approach to governance, risk and compliance

Our next generation legal research platform

Our global tax workstation

- [Thomsonreuters.com](#)
- [About Thomson Reuters](#)
- [Investor Relations](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Thomson Reuters is the world's largest international multimedia news agency, providing investing news, world news, business news, technology news, headline news, small business news, news alerts, personal finance, stock market, and mutual funds information available on Reuters.com, video, mobile, and interactive television platforms. Thomson Reuters journalists are subject to an Editorial Handbook which requires fair presentation and disclosure of relevant interests.

Comments (0)

NYSE and AMEX quotes delayed by at least 20 minutes. Nasdaq delayed by at least 15 minutes. For a complete list of exchanges and delays, please click here.

This discussion is now closed. We welcome comments on our articles for a limited period after their publication.