



## **Industrial Energy Consumers of America**

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### **News Release** **For Immediate Release: October 1, 2009**

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#### **“Economic Policy Institute Study is Right – Industries Employing 4.1 Million Workers are at Risk Under Climate Bill”**

**(Washington D.C.)** – The Economic Policy Institute study released today concludes that industries employing 4.1 million workers are at risk under climate legislation unless the issue of international competitiveness is addressed. This is the latest of several reports that have the same conclusion – that good paying manufacturing jobs are threatened under climate legislation. We agree with this conclusion. If climate legislation increases energy costs in the United States and our foreign competitors do not have similar cost increases, we lose competitiveness and jobs. And, it happens quickly. Energy intensive manufacturing industries are particularly vulnerable, but all are directly impacted.

The U.S. manufacturing sector has lost 5.4 million jobs since 1998. A significant portion of those job losses occurred during the time period of 2001-2003 when U.S. natural gas costs rose significantly for the first time. And, since natural gas fired power generation sets the marginal price for electricity in a growing portion of the country, electricity prices also increased. Natural gas and electricity prices in foreign countries did not rise simultaneously resulting in loss of competitiveness.

Despite the good efforts of some in Congress to address the manufacturing competitiveness issue, competitiveness and jobs are threatened. While the Inslee/Doyle provision provides relief for carbon compliance costs, it does not compensate for the expected higher costs of energy.

IECA’s objective is to work with Congress to implement policies that reduce GHG emissions without loss of manufacturing competitiveness. We believe, if done correctly, will increase manufacturing competitiveness and exports.

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*IECA is a 501 (C) (6) nonprofit organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, and aluminum.*