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SMART AND SMACNA EVENT IN PARMA DISPLAYS THE POWER OF AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT ECONOMY

Cleveland, OH -- Today, the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation Workers Local 33 (SMART) union and the Cleveland chapter of Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) hosted legislators and business leaders for a roundtable discussion highlighting the benefits of energy efficiency for Ohio's economy, including the creation of good-paying jobs.

Elected officials also toured the SMART Local 33 Training Center, where apprentices engage in hands-on training to learn the skills necessary for careers in energy efficiency throughout northeast Ohio.

"With more than 78,000 Ohioans working in the growing energy efficiency sector, the numbers speak for themselves," said Mike Coleman, President of SMART Local 33. "Investments in energy efficiency support good, local jobs that can't be outsourced, while helping businesses save money."

The tour was attended by Ohio House Minority Assistant Leader Rep. Nicholas Celebrezze (D-Parma), State Senator Larry Obhof (R-Medina), Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville), Rep. Martin Sweeney (D-Cleveland), Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chesterland), State Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) and Cleveland City Council President Kevin J. Kelley. Attendees learned firsthand how strong energy efficiency policy has spurred local job creation and job training across Ohio, while helping Ohio businesses to be more competitive and save energy.

"To stay competitive, we have to keep up with new energy efficiency technology so we can offer our customers the latest options to improve comfort and save money," said Thomas E. Martin, President of SMACNA Cleveland and President of T.H. Martin, Inc. "Through the Training Center, our employees get the skills we need to remain on the cutting edge. That drives our success at projects like the Blossom Music Center, where high-efficiency upgrades to the HVAC systems keeps entertainers and the orchestra comfortable when performing, while saving energy and money."

Heather Taylor-Miesle, Executive Director of the Ohio Environmental Council, praised the efforts by SMART and SMACNA to train the next generation of energy efficiency workers, adding, "it's clear that energy efficiency is the way of the future, and this effort demonstrates the great work that unions are doing to make sure Ohio has the best workers available to entice investments throughout the state."

"By eliminating energy waste, we reduce Ohio's need to generate additional power from more expensive alternatives," said Jennifer Kefer, Executive Director of the Alliance for Industrial Efficiency. "Lower energy costs allow us to continue to invest throughout the U.S. supporting more local jobs. Let's keep investing in what works."

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