



## Please Vote in Support of the High Growth Sustainable Jobs Act HB 1533: Reps. Stewart & Gilmore/SB 1177: Sen. Burke

### Tenn. Needs Sustainable Jobs that Support Families and Preserve Our Environment

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Tennessee faced a jobless rate of 9.4 percent in December 2010 with the rate in distressed rural and urban communities even higher. The Tennessee High Growth and Sustainable Jobs Act will both promote job creation as well as enable the preparation and placement of Tennesseans in these jobs. The Sustainable Industry and New Energy Sector is proven to provide high job growth in relation to money invested. By supporting Sustainable Industries, this Act will provide family-supporting jobs to Tennessee residents, thereby reducing State entitlement expenditures. **Please act now to pass the High Growth Sustainable Jobs Act.**

The Act will:

**Develop a State Sustainable Jobs Plan** through the Dept. of Economic and Community Development, envisioning competitive grant programs including: 1) a municipal energy training partnership program to foster partnerships between cities, towns, counties, higher education, businesses, and nonprofits engaged in workforce development; 2) a pathways to prosperity program for workforce development for disadvantaged populations; 3) an environmental equity and sustainability program to provide immediate employment opportunities and skill development through higher education institutions, businesses and non-profits; 4) a program to support innovative business and farming opportunities through bridge financing and micro-loans.

**Foster business growth in the sustainable industries and new energy sector** by: 1) Initiating an exploration by the Dept. of Economic and Community Development of ways to encourage the establishment or expansion of sustainable industry manufacturing facilities, including the removal of existing legislative and regulatory barriers to additional investment in Tenn.; and 2) providing a sales tax incentive for the purchase of solar energy systems which will support both the solar manufacturers and the solar installation industry in Tennessee.

**Create a Sustainable Jobs Fund (with no funding from the state general fund)** to administer and implement the plan. The fund will consist of money transferred to the fund through federal dollars, federal transfers, appropriations, distributions, gifts, grants and donations made to the state for the purpose of funding sustainable jobs training programs.

**We ask all Tennessee Legislators to:**

- 1) Co-sponsor HB 1533 or SB 1177 and**
- 2) Vote in favor of this measure when it comes to the floor.**

One of the fastest-growing segments of the Tennessee economy is the Sustainable Industries and New Energy Sector as evidenced by recent developments including:

- Large investments in Tenn. from companies that provide the foundation for the US solar manufacturing industries such as Wacker Chemie and Hemlock Semiconductor.
- The commemoration by Sharp Manufacturing Corporation of the production of the two-millionth solar panel at its assembly operation in Memphis.
- The commitment by Nissan North America to produce the world's first mass-produced electric car made largely from recycled products as well as advanced batteries in its plant in Smyrna.

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