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Rebate checks headed to solar energy customers

Group praises lawmakers for reinstating rebate funding

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida's leading solar energy industry group praised lawmakers for reinstating payments to consumers who purchased solar energy equipment under a popular statewide rebate program.

In these difficult economic times, lawmakers voted to use federal stimulus funding to provide rebates to commercial and residential consumers who purchased energy-efficient air conditioning units and solar panels under Florida energy incentive programs. For more than a year, thousands of hard-working Floridians have been waiting for solar rebates promised to them before the popular program ran out of money.

The Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA) applauded leaders of the House and Senate for including the rebates on their list of priority items during Tuesday's special session. Lawmakers voted to reinstate funding just hours after they were sworn into office.

"We applaud Senate President Mike Haridopolos and House Speaker Dean Cannon for recognizing the importance of these rebates to thousands of Florida consumers," said Bruce Kershner, executive director of FlaSEIA.

"The approach taken by the Legislature spreads limited resources across a wider number of consumers," Kershner said.

FlaSEIA is the leading voice for contractors, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers that provide solar water heating and solar electric systems for tens of thousands of consumers across the state.

FlaSEIA remains concerned that consumers are properly informed of the savings and benefits of purchasing and installing solar energy equipment. FlaSEIA encourages consumers to check its website (www.flaseia.org) to obtain a list of properly licensed contractors, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers who meet the high ethical standards required of its members.

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