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## **Commissioner Paula Brooks To Deliver Testimony, Mobilize Investment and Action For Sustainable Energy At United Nations Forum**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks has been invited by the U.S. Department of Energy to give testimony at a United Nations forum on sustainable energy.

Commissioner Brooks, who has championed numerous measures to increase Franklin County's environmental and economic resilience, will address UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other foreign dignitaries Wednesday at the first-annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum.

The forum will focus on addressing the three pillars of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative: ensuring access to modern energy services, doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency, and doubling the share of renewables in the global energy portfolio by 2030. A special emphasis is being placed on how energy policy impacts women's and children's health. The forum will also include testimony from several prominent business representatives, including U.S.-based Johnson Controls, which is well known in Central Ohio.

"I am honored and privileged to speak on the progress we have made, embracing the principles of environmental sustainability on the other side of the economic development coin," Commissioner Brooks said. "This UN initiative is a tremendous opportunity for Central Ohio, and American businesses, niched in energy technology and energy sustainability, to access world markets and assure their business' resilience."

Commissioner Brooks, who chairs the National Association of Counties' International Economic Development Task Force and The Energy/Renewables subcommittee, was instrumental in developing the national association's platform in support of methane-to-compressed natural gas production. She is also expected to highlight the County's collaboration with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, and its pioneering waste-to-energy conversion program, which generates \$2 million annually through sales of CNG to California, among other success stories.

The commissioner's testimony comes as energy policy has moved to the forefront of the national and state dialogue. Earlier Monday, President Obama announced the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new carbon emission standards for the country's existing power plants. While just last week, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation that could freeze energy efficiency standards, at a time when millions have been invested in the alternative energy sector, creating almost 25,000 Ohio jobs.

"Here in Franklin County and Central Ohio, we have recognized that alternatives and renewables will pave the road to our nation's energy independence, and drive our future economy," Commissioner Brooks said. "We are proud of our public and private sector partners, such as Tipping Point Renewable Energy, who are leading the way in this field, and the cutting-edge technological innovations that will result from these efforts. It all comes down to jobs, and the question of what environment we will leave behind for our future generations."

Commissioner Brooks will testify as part of the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership dialogue Wednesday, which also includes presentations from Bloomberg New Energy Finance, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Greek Public Power Corporation. The Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN will also be featured prominently.

Commissioner Brooks is the only Ohio member of the bipartisan White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, with the mission of developing recommendations to increase communities' resilience in the face of more frequent and severe climate impacts. Among her responsibilities include serving as the Energy Sector lead for the Task Force's Built Systems subgroup.

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