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VENTURE CAPITAL INDUSTRY IMPLORES CONGRESS TO PASS ENERGY TAX EXTENDER LEGISLATION BEFORE ADJOURNING FOR THE ELECTION

September 29, 2008, Washington DC -- The National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) today urged lawmakers not to leave town before passing the energy tax extenders bill. Both the House and the Senate have successfully passed different versions of this legislation but lawmakers have yet to resolve their differences and get a bill signed into law.

“If left unresolved, this lack of legislation will be a major impediment to continued investment and innovation in the clean technology sector,” said Mark Heesen, president of NVCA. “Now more than ever, our nation needs an energy package that will modernize our infrastructure, encourage greater use of renewable energy sources, and spur the commercialization of innovative alternative energy technologies that will revolutionize our economy and create thousands of new jobs.”

“The US is in the midst of a cleantech revolution with cutting edge innovations poised to tackle some of the world’s most critical energy challenges,” Heesen continued. “Major strides are being made in the materials sciences and advanced materials sectors that will truly change the way Americans work and live. Extending the ITC and PTC will enable entrepreneurs to maintain this rapid pace of innovation and will keep the US from losing ground to global competitors. Quite literally, jobs are at stake and our global leadership is threatened if we do not act now.”

The venture capital community has seen tremendous growth in investment in the clean tech sector. According to data from Thomson Financial, venture capitalists invested over \$2.6 billion into more than 225 clean technology deals in 2007, representing a 340 percent increase from 2005. In 2008 the venture capital industry is on track to invest more than \$3.5 billion into clean technology companies which will represent a 36 percent growth rate from 2007. Overall, venture backed companies account for more than 11 million US jobs and 18 percent of US GDP. Just as the venture capital industry contributed to the creation of critical industry sectors such as biotechnology, semi conductors and Internet, it is poised to do the same in the clean technology sector in the coming months and years.

About the National Venture Capital Association

The National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) represents approximately 460 venture capital firms in the United States. NVCA's mission is to foster greater understanding of the importance of venture capital to the U.S. economy and support entrepreneurial activity and innovation. According to a 2007 Global Insight study, venture-backed companies accounted for 10.4 million jobs and \$2.3 trillion in revenue in the United States in 2006. The NVCA represents the public policy interests of the venture capital community, strives to maintain high professional standards, provides reliable industry data, sponsors professional development, and facilitates interaction among its members. For more information about the NVCA, please visit www.nvca.org.