

CHARLES H. TAYLOR
11TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE AND
THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

22 SOUTH PAK SQUARE
SUITE 330
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-0000
(828) 251-1988

231 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3311
(202) 225-6401

HENDERSONVILLE OFFICE
(828) 697-8539

MURPHY OFFICE
(828) 837-3249

RUTHERFORDTON OFFICE
(828) 286-8750

WAYNESVILLE OFFICE
(828) 456-7559

INTERNET ADDRESS
www.house.gov/charlestaylor

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CONTACT: Deborah Potter
(828) 251-1988

Rep. Taylor Announces New Energy Efficient Technologies Program

WASHINGTON, DC – Western North Carolina Representative Charles Taylor announced today that A-B Technical Community College will receive \$180,000 from Oak Ridge National Laboratories to establish a center on the college's Enka Campus that will promote the use of energy efficient technologies in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. A-B Tech will work in partnership with the Department of Energy's Rebuild America program to develop instructional programs and resources that can be used by the community colleges in WNC to facilitate the transfer of energy efficient technologies to business and industry in their respective service areas. A-B Tech will also work with Blue Ridge Community College, Haywood Community College and Southwestern Community College to help them conduct energy audits on their campuses.

"This is the type of program that is a great fit for Western North Carolina," said Rep. Taylor. "These technologies are all about saving energy, improving building performance, reducing air pollution through reduced energy demand, and enhancing the quality of life through energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies."

"This initiative has enormous potential for helping both industry and public entities in WNC to realize substantial cost savings in utilities by reducing energy consumption in aging manufacturing facilities and public buildings," according to Richard Mauney, Vice President of Administrative Services at A-B Tech and manager of the project.

A-B Tech's Enka Campus was established in 2000 when BASF Corporation gave the college 37 acres and three buildings which were built in the late 1950s and 1960s. Through the funding of this initiative, energy audits will be conducted on the three buildings, and the data collected will be analyzed to create engineering solutions and implementation strategies for the renovations, creating a showcase that demonstrates the cost savings, energy savings, and environmental impact of using energy efficient technologies in the retrofit of older buildings.

UT-Battelle, manager of DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, will administer the project with assistance from the Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas.

