

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Vice President Biden’s Middle Class Taskforce  
Features WIRE-Net’s Great Lakes WIND Network™**

*WIRE-Net’s efforts to stimulate manufacturing growth by building a robust wind energy manufacturing supply chain, brings national recognition to Great Lakes WIND Network -- will also see support from Administration’s new manufacturing policies designed to strengthen America’s middle class.*

**CLEVELAND, OH (June 22, 2009)** – The **Great Lakes WIND Network™**, a WIRE-Net initiative, will be featured at **Vice President Joe Biden’s Middle Class Taskforce** meeting in Perrysburg, Ohio scheduled for June 23, 2009. The forum will begin at 9:45 a.m. with a VIP plant tour of Willard & Kelsey, a manufacturer of high-tech, thin film solar panels.

In addition to the Vice President, this session of the Middle Class Taskforce will include Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke; Ohio Governor Ted Strickland; Michael Greenstone, Council of Economic Advisors; John P. Colm, WIRE-Net; and others. The session will focus on new manufacturing policies being proposed by the Obama-Biden administration to help strengthen America’s middle class.

WIRE-Net, a non-profit economic development organization that provides expertise to manufacturing leaders, founded the Great Lakes WIND Network in 2007. Its first project with the Ohio Department of Development has helped cement Ohio’s role as home to the country’s most robust wind energy manufacturing supply chain.

John Colm, president and executive director for WIRE-Net, will speak about the work of the Great Lakes WIND Network. Mr. Colm will be describing the growing interest in the utility scale wind industry from economic development organizations, state, local and federal governments, and now, an expanding network of more than 1000 manufacturing companies throughout North America.

**About WIRE-Net**

WIRE-Net is an economic development organization serving manufacturing business leaders in Greater Cleveland and, through its Great Lakes WIND Network™, Ohio and the Midwest. WIRE-Net believes in strengthening manufacturing to create healthy communities and fuel economic growth – creating a region “where manufacturing matters” and that values and invests in manufacturing companies. For more information, visit <http://www.wire-net.org/>.

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