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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Do you want to learn about how energy efficiency can lower your federal tax bill as well as your energy bills? The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued guidance last week on the tax credits for new energy efficient homes and for energy efficiency improvements to existing homes, as established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The tax credits are available for certain energy efficiency expenditures in 2006 and 2007. For example, you can get a one-time income tax credit of up to $500 in total for installing efficient new windows, insulation, doors, roofs, and heating and cooling equipment in your home. These tax credits actually lower - dollar for dollar - the amount of federal income taxes that a taxpayer must pay. To view the news release, visit the IRS's website at www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=154658,00.html.

To help homeowners understand and take advantage of the energy efficiency tax credits, the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE), a coalition of business, government, environmental, and consumer leaders who promote the efficient and clean use of energy worldwide, created a special tax credits web site (www.ase.org/section/_audience/consumers/taxcredits). ASE has also issued state-by-state energy saving tips for 37 states and the District of Columbia (www.ase.org/content/article/detail/2821) and has published a free consumer booklet of energy saving tips called "Power$mart: The Power Is In Your Hands" (www.ase.org/section/_audience/consumers/powersmart/).

The OCA is an independent state agency representing the interests of New Hampshire's residential utility ratepayers.

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