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Noble Environmental Welcomes Eagle Festival to Essex, Applauds Town for Joining Renewable Energy Campaign

A leading wind energy developer based in Essex, CT today welcomed the thousands of visitors scheduled to arrive in town for the Connecticut Audubon Society's 7th annual "Eagle Festival" this weekend, and also applauded Essex for joining SmartPower's "20% by 2010" renewable energy campaign.

The Connecticut Audubon Society began the Eagle Festival to celebrate the return of the bald eagle to the Connecticut River. SmartPower is a nationwide, non-profit marketing campaign that promotes clean energy.

"We're proud to be in a town that's moving in the right direction environmentally, and we applaud Essex for making this commitment to support renewable energy," said Charles C. Hinckley, CEO of Noble Environmental Power, a wind energy company with projects in New York and Michigan. "Essex is leading by example, and I hope other towns in our area and throughout the state will follow its lead."

"In his State of the Union address, President Bush stated that the country should move toward getting 20% of its energy from renewable sources by the year 2020," said Essex First Selectman Philip Miller. "Since the Federal government isn't mandating how that should occur, I think that it is up to the towns and cities of America to take the lead."

"The SmartPower 20% by 2010 Campaign is our challenge to municipalities, institutions, and businesses to obtain 20% of their electricity from clean, renewable sources by the year 2010," said Robert Wall, New England Regional Director of SmartPower. "When a town joins our campaign, it sends a powerful message to the community and to other towns throughout Connecticut that clean energy is real, it's here and it's working."

Essex has committed to obtain 20% of the electricity for all municipal properties (town hall, schools, public works, streetlights, etc.) from clean sources by the year 2010. Thus far, 19 towns in Connecticut and the state government have made the commitment.

"It's really great to know that for Connecticut residents, supporting renewable energy can also mean supporting a local business and our State's economy," said John Murphy, Marketing Manager for the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.

"It's a nice coincidence that these two events are occurring so close together," said Betty McLaughlin, Director of Environmental Affairs for the Connecticut Audubon Society. "But it makes perfect sense. The eagles' return is a sign of a better environment to come, and so is the growing renewable energy industry."

Noble's Hinckley agreed with Ms. McLaughlin. "I've always had a commitment to improving the environment, and I'm happy to know that my son is going to grow up with eagles in his back yard," Mr. Hinckley said. "Making our environment better is a big job, but developing our renewable energy resources is one of the best ways to achieve that goal."

About Noble Environmental Power: Noble is a leading renewable energy company that is majority owned by JP Morgan Partners and was founded in 2004 in response to public policy initiatives designed to foster the increased use of renewable energy sources. Noble has seven windparks under development in New York, and two windparks under development in Michigan, for a combined total of more than 1,000 megawatts of clean, renewable energy. Noble is committed to creating environmentally friendly facilities in partnership with local communities. Based in Essex, CT, Noble has offices in Malone, NY; Churubusco, NY; Arcade, NY; and Bad Axe, MI. For more information, please visit www.noblepower.com, or email to info@noblepower.com.

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