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AOBA ACCEPTS BOMA'S 7-POINT ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE

Washington, DC – To further enhance the local real estate industry's green practices, the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington has accepted the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International's **7-Point Challenge**. BOMA International recently presented its new plan and challenged members of the commercial real estate community to accept the plan as part of everyday business practice.

By accepting this challenge, AOBA will work with its member building owners and building management firms in the Washington region to reduce the use of natural resources, non-renewable energy sources and waste production. Benchmarks in the 7-Point Green Challenge include: decrease energy consumption by 30 percent across portfolios by 2012, employ the ENERGY STAR® metrics to benchmark energy performance and water usage, provide education to engineers, owners and operators, perform energy audits to implement low-risk and low-cost strategies, improve operations and building maintenance systems. Finally, as part of the plan, AOBA - as the local BOMA affiliate - will work with its member firms to position itself as a leader in providing education and resources on sustainability.

AOBA is currently undertaking several new green initiatives, including facilitating an Energy Managers Roundtable; developing energy efficiency training materials to complement BOMA's BEEP program; building a Going Green website; and hosting a "greening existing buildings" conference on Sept 25, 2008.

"BOMA's 7-Point Challenge is designed to encourage our industry to voluntarily address energy and environmental issues. With many members who are visionary leaders in the green arena, AOBA is well-positioned to accept this challenge. We are excited about the direct effect that meeting this challenge can and will have on our environment, buildings and tenants," said Mary Lynch, AOBA President and Vice President, Akridge.

"AOBA members are proven leaders in energy efficiency and environmental issues and we look forward to working with them on the goals put forward in the 7-Point Challenge," said BOMA International Chairman and Chief Elected Officer Brenna S. Walraven, RPA, CPM, Executive Managing Director, National Property Management, USAA Real Estate Company. ##

*The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) is the leading membership organization representing owners and managers of commercial office buildings and multi-family residential real estate in the Washington, DC region. Members of AOBA enjoy membership benefits in its national affiliates: the **Building Owners and Managers Association International (BOMA)** and the **National Apartment Association**. For more information, visit www.aoba-metro.org*