



## NEWS RELEASE

Chris Hasle  
503-546-2643  
chris@unitedfundadvisors.com

For Immediate Release

### **United Fund Advisors and U.S. Bank Close Financing on the Nation's First Highway Lighting Solar Project in Oregon**

PORTLAND, OR, September 5, 2008 – Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski (D-OR) announced on August 7<sup>th</sup> that the state will be installing the nation's first solar-powered highway lighting project. The 594-panel solar system, a unique collaboration between United Fund Advisors (UFA), U.S. Bank, Portland General Electric (PGE), and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), will be installed at the Interstate 5 and Interstate 205 interchange and will be operational by the end of the year.

UFA partnered with U.S. Bancorp's Community Development Corporation (USB CDC), a subsidiary of U.S. Bank, to structure the transaction and provide financing. The ODOT solar project is a pre-cursor to future energy projects that will be financed through UFA Renewable Energy Fund I, LLC, an investment fund to be created in collaboration with U.S. Bank. The fund will combine investment capital with local, state and federal energy tax credits and clean power incentives allowing UFA to structure and close numerous renewable energy projects throughout the nation.

"UFA is very excited to have collaborated with U.S. Bank on the landmark ODOT solar demonstration project," said Chris Hasle, Senior Vice President, UFA. "This is exactly the right combination of technology, financing and government/utility interaction that will allow many more renewable energy projects to be realized through UFA Renewable Energy Fund I."

USB CDC, one of the nation's most active tax credit investors, welcomes the opportunity to participate in financing clean energy projects. "Our hope is to work more with both PGE and ODOT in the future, as well as build new partnerships through UFA that complete value-added renewable energy projects. We especially value UFA as a long-term client and new partner representing us in the renewable energy industry," said Rob Wasserman, Senior Vice President, USB CDC.

The 104 kW photovoltaic system will be constructed on ODOT property at the highway interchange and will produce 112,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually, which equals nearly 30% of the power necessary to light the interchange.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Peggy Fowler, CEO of Portland General Electric, stated, "PGE is committed to developing and promoting more solar power in Oregon. We appreciate the innovative approach the Governor and ODOT are taking to support our solar industry and make Oregon first in solar highways."

Lifting the first of the 594 panels in place with Ms. Fowler at the ceremony, Governor Kulongoski remarked, "This project will represent a new era for energy in Oregon. It will represent a step forward toward our vision of an energy independent Oregon – and it will represent the endless opportunities before us to chart this course of clean, reliable and renewable energy for our state."

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**About United Fund Advisors**

UFA is a financial services firm with a triple bottom line mission – dedicated to investing in and structuring financing for projects that produce social and environmental returns, as well as the traditional financial ones. UFA’s Renewable Energy group works with its investor partners to develop and own renewable energy projects throughout the country. The firm has successfully leveraged various federal and state tax credits to help finance over 20 real estate and renewable energy projects with a combined total project cost of over \$1 billion. [www.unitedfundadvisors.com](http://www.unitedfundadvisors.com)

**About U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation**

With assets of over \$4.5 billion, U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation is one of the largest tax credit investors in the country. In addition to renewable energy projects, it also finances affordable housing and community development projects through the use of low-income housing, historic, and New Markets Tax Credits. It is a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: USB), with \$247 billion in assets, and of U.S. Bank, the 6th largest commercial bank in the United States. The company operates 2,542 banking offices and 4,895 ATMs, and provides a comprehensive line of banking, brokerage, insurance, investment, mortgage, trust and payment services products to consumers, businesses and institutions. Visit U.S. Bancorp on the web at [www.usbank.com](http://www.usbank.com)