



* * **MEDIA ADVISORY** * *

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONGRESSMAN TONKO TO VISIT WITH A RENSSELAER COUNTY FAMILY TO
HIGHLIGHT WEATHERIZATION DAY**

TROY, NY – OCTOBER 27, 2010 Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) Executive Director Karen Gordon announced that Congressman Paul Tonko and Lynn Kopka, Regional Director of the Capital Region District Office of NYS Homes and Community Renewal (NYSHCR) will participate in an event at the Branch family home in Troy this Friday to recognize National Weatherization Day.

A number of other state and local officials will also be on hand to tour the three-unit building. The Branch Family will save nearly 50% on last year's heating costs due to the energy saving measures that were undertaken this past year. The national day of recognition was established to help raise awareness about the assistance available to local families through the Weatherization Assistance Program. *There will be a blower door demonstration and many photo opportunities.* The event will be held this **Friday, October 29th at 10:00AM.**

The Branch Family was able to take advantage of the Weatherization Assistance program through The Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO), Rensselaer County's provider agency.

CEO's Gordon said the program helps the neediest of families conserve energy and reduce their costs for heat, cooling, and electricity. "Families can prepare their homes for the winter in order to save energy and dollars spent on heating for the winter," she noted. "The money they save by reducing their energy bills can instead be used by these families to pay for other essentials items."

WHO: Congressman Tonko; Lynn Kopka, Regional Director of the Capital Region District Office of **NYSHCR**; Brian Dewey, NYSHCR Weatherization Field Representative; Karen Gordon, Executive Director of the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO), John Champitto, CEO's Director of the Housing Division, Nancy Rice, CEO's Director of Communications and Development, Rich Kobernuss, CEO's Energy Auditor; the Branch Family, local officials, neighbors, and community leaders.

WHERE: 2272 Old 6th Ave., Troy, NY (From Albany: Head east on Hoosick St bridge (Rte 7) and follow signs for downtown Troy. Turn right onto Hutton St. Take first left onto Old 6th Ave. House is first on left, three- story brick with yellow trim on front and open side yard.)

WHEN: Friday, October 29th; 10:00 AM