

Support High-Performance Green Buildings Principles in Economic Stimulus

From: The Honorable Russ Carnahan

Sent By: ken.reidy@mail.house.gov

Date: 12/17/2008

Join Letter Supporting High-Performance Green Building Principals in Economic Stimulus

Dear Colleague:

*As co-chairs of the **High-Performance Buildings Caucus** we are writing to encourage you to join us in sending the attached letter to Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Boehner, Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis in support of including **high-performance green building principles** in the economic stimulus measure which the House is expected to consider early next year.*

The impact that the physical built environment has on our lives, the natural environment, and global climate change is staggering. The built environment – housing, office buildings, schools, factories, etc. – consumes 40% of the primary energy and 70% of the electricity in the U.S. annually. In addition, the construction of buildings and their related infrastructure consumes approximately 60% of all raw materials used in the U.S. economy. Moreover, buildings account for 39% of U.S. CO₂ emissions per year. This approximately equals the combined total carbon emissions of Japan, France, and the United Kingdom. Additionally, buildings consume about 12% of the potable water in this country. Finally, people spend about 90% of their time in buildings where they are exposed to stale and stagnant air, molds, and noxious fumes from paint, carpets, wood preservatives, etc. and many suffer from "sick building syndrome."

Through a new and more sustainable approach to designing, constructing, and operating new buildings and retrofitting and operating older buildings, we can address and reduce the numerous and varied environmental, climate, health, and economic impacts that result from our homes and buildings. Not only will this help address global climate issues, but will create immediate and long term high pay "green-collar jobs" needed for our economy.

*I hope you will consider joining us in advocating for high-performance green building principles to be included in any upcoming economic stimulus legislation. If you have questions or would like to sign the letter, please contact either Ken Reidy in Congressman Carnahan's office at ken.reidy@mail.house.gov or 5-2671 or Cade Clurman at cade.clurman@mail.house.gov or 5-3515. **Deadline is noon on Friday, December 19, 2008.***

Sincerely,

*Russ Carnahan
Co-Chair
High-Performance Buildings Caucus*

*Judy Biggert
Co-Chair
High-Performance Buildings Caucus*

*The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515*

*The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515*

*The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H218, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515*

*The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515*

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Boehner, Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

As Congress works to develop a second economic stimulus bill to revive our struggling economy, we write to request that any stimulus legislation include high-performance green building principles.

Currently, the entire U.S. construction industry employs an estimated 10 million people including manufacturing, and with increasing focus on improving energy efficiency within buildings, that number can be expected to rise. In these challenging economic times, the growth potential for new high-performance building projects and retrofits can generate millions of jobs in the construction industry in the years ahead.

Each year our nation's homes, offices, schools, and other buildings consume 70 percent of the electricity in the U.S., emit 39 percent of the nation's carbon dioxide emissions, and our citizens spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors. Implementing high-performance green building principles to new construction and retrofitting existing structures can have an immediate impact on decreasing our nation's carbon footprint.

High-performance green buildings have a dual role both in terms of immediate job creation for the construction of new buildings and retrofitting existing structures, as well as directly addressing the environmental impact that our built environment has on global climate change.

Through a new and more sustainable approach to designing, constructing, and operating new buildings and retrofitting and operating older buildings, we can address and reduce the numerous and varied environmental, climate, health, and economic impacts that result from our homes and buildings. We urge you to include high-performance green building principles in any economic revitalization plan presented to Congress.

Sincerely,

MOC's