



HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS COALITION

--www.HPBCCC.org--

Air Conditioning Contractors of America

Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute

American Chemistry Council

The American Institute of Architects

American National Standards Institute

Architecture 2030

American Supply Association

Alliance to Save Energy

Association of State Energy Research & Technology Transfer Institutions

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers

American Society of Landscape Architects

American Society of Mechanical Engineers

ASTM International

The Associated General Contractors of America

Building Owners & Managers Association International

Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing

Carpet and Rug Institute

Ecobuild America, LLC

Environmental & Energy Study Institute

Federation of American Scientists

The Green Building Initiative

The Green Mechanical Council

Green Building in Canada

Heating, Air-conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International

International Code Council

International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials

Mechanical Contractors Association of America

National Electrical Contractors Association

National Electrical Manufacturers Association

National Fire Protection Association

National Institute of Building Sciences

Portland Cement Association

Practice, Education and Research for Sustainable Infrastructure

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association

The Real Estate Roundtable

Sustainable Buildings Industry Council

Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association

Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance

U.S. Green Building Council

Dear Representative,

We urge you to join the newly formed High Performance Buildings Caucus which will make a substantial contribution to solving our energy problems as well as meeting the needs of building occupants in a clean, energy efficient, accessible, safe and esthetically pleasing, but affordable manner.

We are a coalition of trade associations, engineering societies, safety organizations, and public interest groups who understand that environmental and energy issues—and economic concerns—must be addressed in a holistic manner. We understand that energy is the lifeblood of economic growth as well as sustenance for the buildings we occupy to live, work and play. Buildings are an important part of our organizations' purpose and through the High Performance Buildings Caucus we are committed to contributing our collective expertise as Congress enacts legislation enabling the next generation of new and renovated buildings to improve the lives of building occupants.

Congress first dealt with high performance buildings in Section 914 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. We applaud Congress's addressing buildings in a holistic fashion and challenging government agencies and private sector organizations to rethink building standards in light of high performance values. The National Institute of Building Science (NIBS), long recognized as an authoritative source of knowledge, was tasked to provide leadership for this undertaking. NIBS brought together approximately 100 private sector and governmental organizations in a High Performance Buildings Council to perform an assessment of the needed new high performance building standards. Task forces examined the state of the art of buildings and how to improve buildings in the areas of cost effectiveness, safety and security, sustainability, accessibility, functionality, productivity, historic preservation, and aesthetics. NIBS then prepared a report to Congress on next steps and tasked its High Performance Buildings Council to carry forward the work in concert with the building industry. NIBS' report to Congress and the Department of Energy is available at: http://www.wbdg.org/pdfs/hpb_report.pdf.

This is an effort to design systematic ways to make sure that these buildings are secure in windstorms, floods, and even terrorist attacks; can be modified at a reasonable price as technology changes and the needs of building occupants change; are energy and water efficient; and are designed with the well-being, productivity, and financial resources of the building owner and user in mind.

We are especially interested in buildings living up to their energy and environmental potential. According to Oak Ridge National Laboratory, buildings are responsible for 43 percent of total U.S. CO₂ emissions while electricity accounts for about 71 percent of energy use in U.S. buildings. About 76 percent of the electricity generated is consumed in buildings, a number that is projected to grow. Performance improvement, through the voluntary adoption of codes and standards or by policy decisions, can be significant in improving the environmental impact of our nation's buildings.

Both the High Performance Buildings Caucus and the supporting Coalition were formed out of our organizations' shared desire to help bring buildings to the next level of sustainability. This is a time of unique challenges and opportunities. If all buildings using existing construction budgets were designed using currently available technology to be as high performance as possible, the average new building could be even more efficient and sustainable than the many good buildings entering the market today.

We are excited to work with the Caucus and with you to develop tools to allow designers and constructors to deliver buildings that provide the best value and sustainable benefits. We also would like to work with you to develop a legislative agenda to encourage the next generation of high performance building technologies.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to join the High Performance Buildings Caucus. To join, please contact Phil Page in Rep. Russ Carnahan's office at Phil.Page@mail.house.gov.