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The Honorable Nan Hayworth U.S. House of Representatives 1440 Longworth Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson U.S. House of Representatives 231 Cannon Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Hayworth and Thompson:

On behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council, I would like commend your introduction of H.R. 2599, the PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011.

As you know, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) finance programs are a local government solution that helps home and business owners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. By providing owners with long-term financing options that are repaid through an assessment on property taxes, PACE provides financial security for home and business owners, creates jobs in the home improvement industry, and boosts manufacturing of clean and efficient technologies and products.

PACE has tremendous potential to create tens of thousands of local jobs, cut energy bills, reduce mortgage default risk, and dramatically reduce energy consumption by spurring investment in clean energy improvements. These programs have received strong bipartisan support from state and local governments nationwide. But now, PACE programs have come to a halt throughout the country due to lender guidance issued by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). The FHFA guidance has forced cities in 22 states to suspend or dissolve their programs, and has killed the launch of new programs across the country.

The PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011 would guarantee the right of state and local governments to move forward with PACE by directing the Federal entities responsible for mortgage lending to adopt underwriting standards that are consistent with the PACE guidelines issued by DOE. This bill would also ensure that no Federal agency can discriminate against communities implementing or participating in a PACE program, offering critical protection and security to home owners, businesses, and local governments.

USGBC supports this legislation and looks forward to working with you and others to secure its swift passage.

Jason Hartke

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Vice President, National Policy U.S. Green Building Council