

USGBC 2101 L STREET, NW SUITE 500 WASHINGTON, DC 20037 202 828-7422 USGBC.ORG

## PRESIDENT, CEO & FOUNDING CHAIRMAN

S. Richard Fedrizzi

CHAIR Elizabeth J. Heider Skanska

CHAIR ELECT Allan Skodowski Jr. Transwestern

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR Mark M. MacCracken CALMAC Mfg. Corp.

TREASURER Lisa Shpritz Bank of America

SECRETARY Punit Jain Cannon Design

## FOUNDERS

David Gottfried Michael Italiano S. Richard Fedrizzi February 15, 2012

The Honorable Charles F. Bass U.S. House of Representatives 2350 Rayburn HOB Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Matheson U.S. House of Representatives 2434 Rayburn HOB Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bass and Representative Matheson:

On behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council and our nearly 16,000 organizational members and 80 local chapters, I'd like to thank you for introducing, the "Smart Energy Act."

Buildings annually account for 39% of primary energy use in the U.S.<sup>[1]</sup> Increasing the efficiency of buildings reduces utility costs and has a positive return on investment for consumers and businesses. This legislation has the potential to realize resource efficiency across several sectors of the economy, especially in the built environment.

The provisions of the bill, including those that enhance leadership by the federal government, are of particular importance in achieving a green economy. The Smart Energy Act will improve resource efficiency of federal agencies through its enhanced private financing, advanced metering and other utility saving techniques. Targeting these untapped opportunities can save a significant amount of taxpayer money by making our nation's federal buildings and operations more efficient.

We are also pleased that the bill enhances financing programs at the Department of Energy (DOE) to advance efficiency opportunities in our nation's schools, hospitals and municipal buildings. Programs like these offer significant opportunities to leverage private financing to deliver real utility savings to school districts, municipal governments and expand investment opportunities for private commercial real-estate.

Thank you for your leadership in developing this important legislative package. Please let us know how best we can be of any assistance in this effort.

Sincerely,

<sup>[1]</sup> Energy Information Administration (2008). Assumptions to the Annual Energy Outlook; Energy Information Administration (2008). EIA Annual Energy Outlook.



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

Jason Harthe