

May 19, 2011

Chairman Feinstein	Ranking Member Alexander
Subcommittee on Energy and Water	Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Senate Appropriations Committee	Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol	S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510	Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Frelinghuysen	Ranking Member Visclosky
Subcommittee on Energy and Water	Subcommittee on Energy and Water
House Appropriations Committee	House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol	1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515	Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We are writing as representatives of the commercial real estate industry and other energy efficiency stakeholders to urge that the 2011 edition of the U.S. Energy Information Administration's Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) be funded at \$4 million for fiscal year 2012 (FY12) so that the on-going collection of energy data for the commercial buildings sector can be resumed.

CBECS provides critically important information to support programs that promote energy efficiency in our nation's commercial building stock. It is a national sample survey that collects data on energy-related building characteristics such as electricity consumption and expenditures. Information from CBECS is the basis for many federal and private sector energy efficiency and sustainability programs, including the ENERGY STAR Buildings program, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Existing Buildings, and other building energy labeling platforms.

For the real estate sector, these programs are the primary benchmarking and information mechanism for energy efficiency and sustainability. Business owners use them to compare their buildings and make capital expenditure decisions, while office tenants use ENERGY STAR and other programs to assess the energy efficiency of buildings where they lease space. In addition, there is growing pressure on the CBECS data set as major U.S. cities have started to require ENERGY STAR ratings (which are based on CBECS data) for government-owned and large private sector buildings. Lack of robust CBECS data will make the real estate sector's compliance with state and local laws increasingly difficult.

The market is currently using CBECS data from 2003, which is the most recent dataset the Energy Information Administration (EIA) has published. We understand that problems from the 2007 CBECS data collection effort, which caused it to be discarded, are being corrected by the EIA as it prepares to undertake survey work this year. If funding is not provided, work on the 2011 CBECS process will be suspended. This will force companies, consumers, and government stakeholders to rely on data that is nearly a

decade old and does not reflect the significant strides that have been made in building technologies, operations, and efficiencies that have occurred in this rapidly evolving arena since the release of the 2003 data set. Opportunities to increase building efficiency and upgrade our building stock will be missed in the absence of more current and reliable CBECS data. Further delay in collecting and publishing new data will diminish the efficacy and reliability of energy benchmarking systems that depend on CBECS.

Increasing the efficiency of buildings can decrease the need for additional energy production, while expanding current capacity, positively impacting the U.S. economy and national security. We respectfully request that you continue funding for CBECS at \$4 million in FY12 and future years. This is a small investment on a critically important piece of data infrastructure that will leverage significant impacts.

Sincerely,

The City of New York
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
The Real Estate Roundtable (RER)
U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)
AABC Commissioning Group (ACG)
ABM Janitorial Services, Inc.
AECOM
Air Barrier Association of America
Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
American Institute of Architects
Ankrom Moisan Architects
Association for Facilities Engineering
Beck Architecture LLC
Biositu, LLC
Building Owners and Managers Association International (BOMA)
Brandywine
Campbell Coyle Holdings, LLC
Cannon Design
Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing
Cook+Fox Architects
Cushman & Wakefield
e4, inc.
Earth Day New York
EIFS Industry Members Association (EIMA)
Energy Future Coalition
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
GGLO
Green Realty Trust, Inc
Grubb & Ellis
HOK

illuminating Engineering Society
Insight Real Estate, LLC
Institute for Market Transformation
International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD)
The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)
International Council of Shopping Centers
Jonathan Rose Companies
Jones Lang LaSalle
Johnson Controls, Inc.
Joseph Freed and Associates
Kirksey Architecture
KMD Architects
Lake Flato Architects
Leo A Daly
Lord, Aeck & Sargent Architecture
Mahlum
Malachite LLC
MEI Hotels Incorporated
National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)
National Insulation Association
National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
PPG Industries
Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)
Related
SERA Architects
Servidyne
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Simon Property Group
SmithGroup
Terrapin Bright Green
The Durst Organization
The Stella Group, Ltd.
Tishman Construction
Tishman Speyer
Transwestern
UL Environment
U.S. Equities Realty
Vornado Realty Trust
Wight & Company
Window and Door Manufacturers Association

CC:

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Hal Rogers

The Honorable Norm Dicks