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July 14, 2011

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
U.S. Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Portman  
U.S. Senate  
338 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen and Senator Portman:

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 Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2011."

Buildings annually account for 39% of U.S. primary energy use.<sup>[1]</sup> Increasing the efficiency of buildings decreases utility costs, while having a positive return on investment for consumers and business. This legislation has the potential to deploy resource efficiency across all sectors of our economy, especially the built environment.

Provisions of the bill, including those that enhance leadership by the federal government, are of particular importance. The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act contains several provisions, including building upgrades, advanced metering and other utility saving techniques which will improve resource efficiency of federal agencies. Targeting these untapped opportunities can save a significant amount of taxpayer money by making our nation's federal buildings and operations more efficient.

The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act also include provisions to regularly update the existing national model building codes. As a developer and strategic partner in the release of the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) USGBC supports changes to strengthen performance and raise the floor for all buildings. We greatly appreciate your work to enhance provisions of the bill that strengthen the role of advanced codes which enhance and accelerate sustainable buildings and communities.

We are also pleased the bill expands existing financing programs at the Department of Energy (DOE) to advance efficiency opportunities in our nation's schools, hospitals and municipal buildings. Programs like these, included in President Obama's Better Building Initiative, offer significant opportunities to leverage private financing to deliver real utility savings to financially restrained school districts and municipal governments. USGBC greatly supports the

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



improvements to the bill clarifying that financing opportunities like these are applicable to private commercial real-estate.

We commend your leadership in developing this comprehensive package and offer our full support to advancing this important legislation. Please let us know how best we can be of any assistance in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Hartke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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