



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

PRESIDENT, CEO &
FOUNDING CHAIRMAN

S. Richard Fedrizzi

OFFICERS

CHAIR
Gail Vittori
Center for Maximum Potential
Building Systems

CHAIR ELECT
Tim Cole
Forbo Linoleum, Inc.

TREASURER
Anthony Bernheim
HDR Architecture

SECRETARY
Richard Graves
Perkins+Will

FOUNDERS

David Gottfried
Michael Italiano
S. Richard Fedrizzi

May 11, 2011

The Honorable Tom Carper
U.S. Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

On behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council's nearly 16,000 organizational members and 80 local chapters, thank you for your leadership in introducing the "Reducing Federal Energy Dollars (R-FED) Act of 2011."

Buildings annually account for 39% of U.S. primary energy use.¹ Increasing the efficiency of federal buildings and leased facilities can decrease utility costs, while having a positive return on investment for taxpayers. This key legislation further enhances high performing green building practices across the federal building portfolio.

Provisions of the bill, including the commissioning section, offer particular promise. According to a study of building commissioning sponsored by the Department of Energy,² commissioning of existing buildings can improve energy efficiency by roughly 15 percent while offering an attractive payback period of roughly 6 months.³

The Reducing Federal Energy Dollars Act of 2011 utilizes untapped opportunities to save a significant amount of taxpayer money by making our nation's federal buildings more efficient. We should seize this opportunity and take the steps necessary to reduce our resource consumption and the cost to taxpayers.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the swift passage of this legislation. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you in this effort.

Sincerely,

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

¹ *Energy Information Administration (2008). Assumptions to the Annual Energy Outlook; Energy Information Administration (2008). EIA Annual Energy Outlook.*

² Mills, E., Friedman, H., Powell, T., et al., *The Cost-Effectiveness of Commercial-Buildings Commissioning: A Meta-Analysis of Energy and Non-Energy Impacts in Existing Buildings and New Construction in the United States (December 2004)*, available at <http://eetd.lbl.gov/emills/PUBS/Cx-Costs-Benefits.html>.

³ *Id.* at 1.