

November 9, 2007

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
SD-304 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
SD-304 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
2157 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Davis
Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
2157 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Congressmen:

We write to express our strong support for provisions in the House- and Senate-passed energy bills that improve the energy efficiency of federal facilities, and to urge you to ensure that these provisions are included in any comprehensive energy package that passes Congress.

Section 266 of H.R. 6 as passed by the Senate requires federal agencies to document that new federal buildings reduce fossil-fuel generated energy consumption (when compared to a similar building in 2003) by a series of increasing targets until 2030, when all new federal buildings are required to be carbon-neutral.

Section 6204 of H.R. 3221 as passed by the House also requires that new federal buildings begin to reduce their carbon footprint via a series of increasing targets until 2030, when carbon-neutrality would be achieved. However, the House bill goes further, requiring that building renovations for which either the General Services Administration submits a prospectus to Congress or that cost at least \$2.5 million also meet the energy reduction targets. We hope that the final language would allow any and all tools, such as the commercial building rating systems Green Globes and LEED, to be used to help achieve reduced energy use and carbon neutrality in buildings.

According to the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, buildings and their construction are responsible for nearly half of all greenhouse gas emissions produced in the U.S. every year. DOE's *Building Energy Data Book* reveals that the building sector accounts for 39 percent of total U.S. energy consumption, more than both the transportation and industry sectors. The same study found that buildings are responsible for 71 percent of U.S. electricity consumption and that buildings in the United States alone account for 9.8 percent of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide.

Requiring significant energy reduction targets in new and renovated federal buildings will demonstrate to the private sector that the federal government is leading by example. It would help spur the development of new materials, construction techniques, and technologies to make buildings more energy efficient. And it will help show that significant energy reductions are both practical and cost-effective.

We also believe that major building renovations must be included in the requirement. The GSA has noted that billions of dollars are needed to renovate federal buildings across the U.S. Every year, the federal government renovates far more buildings than they construct. For FY 2008 alone, the GSA has requested nearly \$805 million to repair aging buildings. At the same time, only \$615 million has been requested for new building construction. In order to maximize energy savings in federal buildings over the next 25 years, buildings undergoing major renovations should be required to meet aggressive new energy use targets.

Therefore, the Coalition urges you to ensure that any final energy bill passed by Congress includes the requirement for reducing greenhouse-gas emitting energy from federal buildings as provided in both H.R. 6 and H.R. 3221, that the final bill include the language from H.R. 3221 on major renovations, and that this language be modified to allow for use of both of the commercial building rating systems that are currently used by the federal government, Green Globes and LEED.

Sincerely,

American Institute of Architects

Alliance to Save Energy

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers

American Planning Association

American Society of Landscape Architects

Construction Owners Association of America

Green Building Initiative

National Society of Professional Engineers