

April 7, 2008

**Re: Support advanced building energy codes provision**

Dear Senator/Representative:

The undersigned manufacturers, designers, utilities, state agencies, and environmental, consumer, and energy-efficiency organizations urge you to support legislation that will address global warming through a dramatic improvement in residential and commercial building energy codes throughout the United States. This provision would set national targets for improvements to building energy codes and would encourage more states to meet them. But contrary to some claims, under this proposal states and local governments would still be in charge of building energy codes in their jurisdictions, and independent organizations would still set national model codes. This provision was in Sec. 9301 in the original House-passed energy bill (H.R. 3221).

The potential impact is remarkable. If model building energy codes are strengthened by 30 percent starting in 2010 and 50 percent starting in 2020—and if all states implement the codes—the Alliance to Save Energy estimates that by 2030 our nation could reduce greenhouse gas emissions equal to taking 28 million cars off the road (150 million tons of carbon dioxide), save 5 percent of its total energy use in buildings (3 quadrillion Btus), and save consumers \$25 billion each year. Even if code improvements stopped there, greenhouse gas savings would grow to over 6 billion tons through 2050. This provision also will reduce both demand on the power grid and stress on natural gas supplies, and improve local air quality and health.

Recent reports from the Western Governors' Association, the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, and the National Petroleum Council have emphasized the importance of stronger codes to make homes and commercial buildings more efficient. The Department of Energy recently called for 30 percent savings in the next editions of the model energy codes for homes and commercial buildings. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-conditioning Engineers, which sets model commercial building energy standards, is already working to achieve 30 percent savings by 2010. And a committee of the International Code Council recently recommended significant improvements (though less than 30 percent) in the 2009 model residential code.

We urge you to support this provision for strong building energy codes as a critical piece of national energy and climate policy in any appropriate legislative vehicle.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

American Institute of Architects

American Public Power Association

Atlas Roofing Corporation

BASF Corporation  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy  
Ceres  
CertainTeed Corporation  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Consumer Federation of America  
Dryvit Systems  
Duke Energy  
Edison Electric Institute  
Edison International  
Energy Center of Wisconsin  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Environmental Law & Policy Center  
Environment America  
Environment Northeast  
Firestone Building Products Company  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Greenpeace USA  
Guardian Industries  
Honeywell Building Solutions  
Hunter Panels  
IKO Industries, LTD.  
Insulation Contractors Association of America  
Johns Manville  
Kilowatt Ours (Nashville, TN)  
Kinetix [business ecology]  
Knauf Insulation  
KyotoUSA  
MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance  
National Association of State Energy Officials  
National Audubon Society  
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients  
National Fenestration Rating Council  
National Grid  
National Insulation Association  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association  
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships  
NSTAR Electric & Gas  
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel  
Orion Energy Systems  
PG&E Corporation  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
PNM Resources  
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association  
PPG Industries  
Rmax, Inc.  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Sierra Club  
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance  
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation  
Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation