

June 10, 2009

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter
415 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Perlmutter:

We the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 2336, the Green Resources for Energy Efficient Neighborhoods (GREEN) Act, which will be the focus of an upcoming hearing held by the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. We appreciate your leadership in sponsoring this important bill and we believe it is the next major step in the federal government's commitment to ensuring that affordable housing is more energy efficient, healthy and environmentally sustainable.

The principles and practices of "green" development offer proven, cost effective ways to address current and longstanding housing challenges, rising energy and transportation costs and the effects of global warming, all of which disproportionately affect low-income people. There is experience and research showing that affordable housing can deliver significant health, economic and environmental benefits from green building and rehabilitation practices on a cost effective basis with the right resources and approach. This holds true for all kinds of housing developments, in smaller as well as larger communities, throughout the country.

The building sector is the single largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the United States, and Americans' demand and consumption of electricity grows by the day. The modifications to federal housing and lending policy proposed in H.R. 2336 will provide financial tools for homeowners and the building sector to curb energy use. In addition to its contribution to reducing global warming pollution, the bill encourages monetary savings on electricity bills for low- and middle-income Americans, as well as the federal government. These savings are crucial for low-income families, as they can spend nearly 20 percent of their annual income on utilities—four times more than even a median-income household.

The GREEN Act incentivizes wise environmental and economic investments by both the government and consumers. "Greening" affordable housing – making it more energy efficient, healthier and more environmentally sustainable – will help to ensure that the enormous promise of the emerging green economy includes opportunities for everyone in our society.

We hope the Subcommittee, the full Committee and the House will move to expedite consideration of the GREEN Act and we look forward to working with you to help make that happen.

Please call upon us if we can provide additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Community Trees
Alliance to Save Energy
American Architectural Foundation
American Public Health Association
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
American Institute of Architects
American Planning Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
Architecture 2030
Carpet and Rug Institute
Center for American Progress Action Fund
Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.
Environment America
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Federation of American Scientists
Global Green
The Green Standard
Housing Assistance Council
International Code Council
Jonathan Rose Companies
Lennar Ventures
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Institute of Building Sciences
National NeighborWorks Association
Native American Indian Housing Council
Smart Growth America
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
U.S. Green Building Council