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January 27, 2014

Honorable Fred Upton, Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Henry Waxman, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

I write on behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit comprising nearly 13,000 member companies and organizations committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. We are pleased to express our strong support for the base bill H.R. 2126, the "Better Buildings Act of 2013." The act takes a market-driven, voluntary, "best practices" approach to align building owners and their tenants to reduce demands on the energy grid. This is important legislation that will yield significant energy and economic benefits. In addition, it fits within existing voluntary programs, has no regulatory impact and does not require new appropriations.

Energy efficiency in buildings is the most cost-effective opportunity for advancing a national energy and climate solution. As you know, buildings collectively represent 40 percent of energy used in the United States, and increasing their efficiency will both save money and slash emissions. However, many programs focus on the building as a whole, and exclude the major progress that can be made by reducing energy consumption by tenants. The Better Buildings Act captures that opportunity by expanding the widely successful ENERGY STAR program to address tenant energy consumption. ENERGY STAR for buildings has saved American businesses over \$2.7 billion in utility bills in 2012, and we're confident that this next step could mean even greater economic benefits.¹ The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy has estimated that enactment of H.R. 2126 will cut consumer and business energy costs by \$2 billion by 2030.²

We strongly support this vision of super-efficient, resilient buildings and look forward to working with you to ensure swift passage of this exciting legislation. Please contact our Legislative Director Bryan Howard, bhoward@usgbc.org, if we can be of any further assistance to you in this effort.

¹ Environmental Protection Agency Press Release, 03/12/2013

² ACEEE, "Economic Impacts of the Energy Efficiency Provisions in the Energy Savings & Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013 and Select Amendments," 2013. <http://aceee.org/files/pdf/white-paper/shaheen-portman-2013.pdf>



Sincerely,

Jason Hartke

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

CC: Energy and Commerce Committee