

July 24, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations [and companies], we are writing to voice our strong opposition to any effort or measure that would restrict the federal government from using proven, cost effective green building programs, particularly the market-leading LEED green building rating system and Enterprise Green Communities, a comprehensive green building standard designed specifically for affordable housing developers.

The federal government has been a leader in green building, demonstrating its commitment to both strong environmental and fiscal stewardship. By utilizing proven green building systems to lead by example, agencies and departments are saving energy, conserving resources and saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

More than 1,000 federal projects have achieved LEED certification, showing that green building best practices are both practical and cost-effective. These buildings are saving taxpayer dollars on energy, as a study conducted by PNNL showed that the General Service Administration's LEED certified buildings saved on average 27% in energy and 19% in operating costs.

Two months ago, the National Academy of Science conducted a thorough review of green building systems for use by the Department of Defense and concluded that the Department "should continue to require that its new buildings or major renovations to facilities be designed to achieve a LEED-Silver or equivalent rating."

Enterprise Green Communities, referenced in multiple HUD and USDA programs and cited by twenty state housing finance agencies, is the nation's first national green building standard for affordable housing. To-date, the Enterprise Green Communities Criteria has guided development of over 35,000 units resulting in healthier, energy efficient and cost-effective homes for residents and neighborhoods nationally.

We urge you to oppose any attempts to restrict the federal government's ability to utilize proven green building programs like LEED and Enterprise Green Communities.

Sincerely,

AEC Science & Technology, LLC
The Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (AES)
The American Society of Landscape Architects
Architecture 2030
California Housing Partnership
Enterprise Community Partners
Full Spectrum NY

greeNEWit
Global Green USA
Illuminating Engineering Society
Ingersoll Rand
Institute for Market Transformation
Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)
Montgomery Housing Partnership
National Fenestration Rating Council
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Center for Healthy Housing
New Buildings Institute
The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA)
The Stella Group
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF)
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
U.S. Green Building Council