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December 22, 2008

Secretary of Energy Designate Dr. Steven Chu  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
One Cyclotron Drive  
MS 50A-4119  
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Dr. Chu:

I am writing to outline a proposal to insure metrics and measurement are included in any legislative stimulus proposal relating to energy conservation and grants/aid to cities in stimulating or incentivizing energy efficiency improvements in public and commercial buildings, residences and housing.

As you are well aware, buildings use over 40% of all energy used in the U.S. Reducing energy use in buildings, through energy efficiency and conservation measures is the most effective and efficient means of reducing U.S. energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and it has the added advantages of potentially creating thousands of jobs in the hard-hit construction sector, as well as reducing energy costs for homeowners and businesses.

The enclosed background paper points out that in order to achieve the reduced energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, there needs to be a way to insure that retro-fitting for efficiency is done correctly, with proper materials and methods, and does not compromise the health and safety of building users.

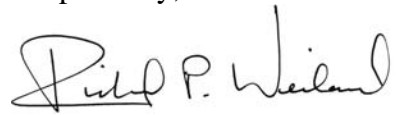
The only way to insure those results is for all retrofitting, as well as new construction, to be inspected and checked against the latest building and energy conservation codes, by trained and certified personnel.

The International Code Council (Code Council), the organization that publishes the model International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) building codes adopted and used in all 50 states, can provide the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), fully coordinated with the safety provisions of current building codes, as well as specialized training for building inspectors to become certified Residential and/ or Commercial Energy Inspectors. The 2009 IECC has been determined by the Dept of Energy to produce at least 20% energy efficiency gains over the 2006 IECC, and is being actively promoted by DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office.

Thanks for your consideration of our ideas, and I look forward to discussing this issue further as legislative plans are developed. The Code Council will also be working with Members of

Congress, who understand the critical importance of metrics and measurement for a program to boost building energy efficiency.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard P. Weiland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "W".

Richard P. Weiland,  
Chief Executive Officer

CC:

Carol Browner, Jerry Saavedra, Presidential Transition Team  
Peter Rouse, Office of Senator Barack Obama

**The International Code Council:  
Critical to the U.S. Infrastructure / Vital to Achieving Energy Independence**  
*Contact: David Karmol, VP Federal Relations, [dkarmol@iccsafe.org](mailto:dkarmol@iccsafe.org)*

The International Code Council (Code Council) was conceived fifteen years ago, to bring together the three regional building codes (BOCA, SBCCI, and ICBO), that together had been responsible for making American homes, workplaces and public buildings the safest in the world.

The first truly nationwide U.S. building codes, the 2000 International Residential Code (IRC) and the 2000 International Building Code (IBC), and their later versions, have now been adopted by nearly every jurisdiction in the U.S. that adopts a building code, resulting in a host of benefits for Americans. The first, and primary benefit, is safety, with American buildings being the safest in the world. Building codes enable innovative solutions to design and energy conservation challenges, public health advances, and increased protection from both natural and man-made risks.

We all take these advantages for granted, but the Code Council produces all these benefits, relying chiefly on the expertise and experience of thousands of building and design professionals to collaboratively produce building codes that make American buildings the safest and best in the world.

Financial support for the codes comes from purchases of Code Council products and services by jurisdictions. The economic downturn that has affected the housing market has struck another blow to the Code Council, as sales of its products and services to builders, architects and building material suppliers are tied to activity in the construction and remodeling markets, which have declined precipitously over the last year.

It is just at this moment that the Code Council is most needed, for one of the critical components of the effort to reduce our dependence on foreign oil is to address energy use in the single largest category of energy use- buildings. Over 40% of the U.S. energy supply is consumed by buildings, so any effort to reduce energy must include a strong component of energy savings from residential, commercial and public buildings. While the Federal Government has launched a strong effort to reduce consumption of energy in Federal buildings, the bulk of the savings will be achieved by reducing energy use in privately owned homes and buildings.

Currently, only a handful of states use and enforce the most recent International Code Council 2006 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This code, which was recently updated for 2009 with significant input from the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, has practical requirements that can be applied to both new and existing construction. If the

2006 IECC was adopted and applied in all 50 states, we would save 6.6 quadrillion BTUs of energy over the next twenty years, while eliminating more than 100 million metric tons of carbon equivalent emissions. Using the 2009 version would increase these savings by approximately 20%. So the energy savings are on a massive scale, and the savings are permanent.  
(<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/documents/buildingcodesfactsheet.pdf> )

The big advantage to implementing the IECC is that it will actually create jobs, by stimulating a booming market for home and commercial energy improvements, with a short payback to the owners and users of the buildings involved.

In order to achieve the savings resulting from use of the IECC, there are two key steps required.

- 1) Widespread adoption of the 2009 IECC, by the states and local governments that have the power to require compliance.
- 2) There must be a qualified cadre of professional personnel, trained and certified as commercial and residential energy inspectors.

This training and certification is available, from the International Code Council and other organizations, but is not likely to be a high priority for state and local jurisdictions strapped for cash, that are being forced to cut vital services like police and fire services. Some are even delaying updating basic building code documents, to save money.

At this critical juncture, there are two possible means to support the Code Council, and insure it is able to continue providing the services essential to the American way of life.

First, would be to incorporate HR 4461 into any stimulus legislation. This House-passed bill would set aside approximately 100 million, over the next five years, to be used by cities, states and counties specifically for the upgrading of building code administration, through a competitive grant process. A grant program could be implemented quickly by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, once passed and funded.

An alternative method, tied to an energy stimulus, would be to earmark funds (approximately \$100 million) within the package for states, counties and cities, to be used exclusively for training and certifying and equipping residential and commercial energy inspectors. These funds could also be used quickly, on programs that are already available, to both train the necessary energy inspectors, and to provide a strong incentive for states and local governments to update their code requirements to incorporate the 2009 IECC. This low cost program would insure that any other stimulus involving incentives for energy conservation in homes, whether through mortgage incentives or tax incentives, would result in real and measurable improvements in building energy efficiency, benefitting the entire economy by a permanent reduction in energy use.