

April 14, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

As a broad-based coalition of business, trade, design, construction, environmental, and energy efficiency groups and organizations, we write to you in support of enlarging the Energy Efficient Commercial Building Tax Deduction from \$1.80 per square foot to \$3.00 per square foot in order to help stimulate immediate job creation.

The global financial crisis continues to threaten the livelihood of American businesses and workers as nearly every sector of our economy has been affected by the economic downturn. In order to invigorate the economy and build the foundation for long-term economic growth, Congress must pursue policies that will create jobs in the short-term, yet in an economically-viable manner.

One of the most prudent ways to achieve this dual-goal is to expand upon existing tax incentives that have a track-record of significant job creation. The Energy Efficient Commercial Building Tax Deduction (26 U.S.C 179(d)) is one such incentive. Created in 2005, it provides a tax deduction of up to \$1.80 per square foot for the design and installation of qualified energy efficient building systems in new building construction or in the renovation of existing buildings. This performance-based deduction has leveraged billions of dollars in private capital, in turn leading to the energy-efficient construction or renovation of thousands of buildings across the country, and creating or preserving hundreds of thousands of jobs in the process.

Although the deduction has been successfully used to build and retrofit energy efficient buildings, the economic crisis has reduced the amount of building design, construction and renovations across the country. In addition, because some energy efficient systems are more expensive to design, build, and install than their less efficient counterparts, the initial increased capital costs often dissuade owners from installing these systems.

Therefore, we call on Congress to increase the maximum allowable deduction from \$1.80 per square foot to \$3.00 per square foot (\$1.00 in the case of individual subsystems) in any legislation intended to create jobs. By increasing the deduction to \$3.00 per square foot, Congress could immediately stimulate building design, construction, and renovation across the country, spurring job creation in every state and region, while enhancing our energy independence and improving our nation's infrastructure for the 21st century.

Respectfully,

ACCA - Air Conditioning Contractors of America
ACEEE - American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
AEE - Association of Energy Engineers
AIA - The American Institute of Architects
Air Barrier Association of America Inc.
Alliance to Save Energy
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Lighting Association
Architexture 2030
ASCE - American Society of Civil Engineers

ASHRAE - American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.
Associated General Contractors of America
Brick Industry Association
Bullock Tice Associates
Carl Walker, Inc.
Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing
Coleman Hines, Inc.
Comfort Systems USA Energy Services
Conservation Law Foundation
Consolidated Edison Solutions, Inc.
Consolidated Electrical Distributors
ECS - Energy Concepts & Solutions, Inc.
Edgewood Electric, Inc.
Energy Systema Design, Inc.
Energy Systems Group
Energy Tax Savers Inc.
Energy, Water and Taxes, LLC
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Ernst & Morris
Federation of American Scientists
GreenLink Alliance
Hollenbach Oakley, LLC
Hubbell Incorporated
IALD
IESNA - Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
Imark Group
IMT - Institute for Market Transformation
Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Ingersoll Rand/Trane
Insulation Contractors Association of America (ICAA)
Intellenergy LLC
International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators and Allied Workers
International Code Council
International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)
Johnson Controls
KBKG, INC.
LonMark International
Lockett & Farley
MCAA - Mechanical Contractors Association of America
McQuay International
MEP Engineering Solutions, Inc.
Moseley Architects
NAED – National Association of Electrical Distributors
NAESCO – National Association of Energy Service Companies
NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association
NASEO -- National Association of State Energy
National Association of Lighting Management Companies (NALMCO)
National Electrical Manufacturers Representatives Association

National Institute of Building Sciences
National Insulation Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)
National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
NECA – National Electrical Contractors Association
NEEP – Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
NEMA – National Electrical Manufacturers Association
OLA Consulting Engineers, PC
One Source Associates
Osram Sylvania, Inc.
O'Sullivan Creel, LLP
Philips Electronics
PIMA – Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
PMH Associates, Inc.
Portland Cement Association
PPG Industries
Serious Materials, Inc.
Siemens
SMACNA - Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association, Inc.
SourceCorp
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
The Stella Group, Ltd
Tower Pinkster
U.S. Green Building Council
VPS Architecture, Inc.
Worldwide Energy, Inc.