



Steering Committee

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Steve Symms

Ted Turner

Timothy E. Wirth

Executive Director

Reid Detchon

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Harry:

On behalf of a broad coalition of business, labor and environmental groups, I write to ask your support for increased funding for energy efficiency investments in the economic recovery package. The Senate bill has set aside less than \$10 billion for this purpose – little more than half the amount contained in the House bill. We fear that this slow start for energy efficiency misses an historic opportunity to set the nation on a new course of “Rebuilding America.”

America’s builders and contractors have joined with labor and industry leaders and energy policy advocates in calling for a comprehensive energy savings and jobs program to retrofit 50 million buildings by 2020. Spearheaded by the Energy Future Coalition, “Rebuilding America” is designed to cut these buildings’ energy use by 30 percent. An allocation of \$20 billion in the pending economic recovery package would retrofit 4 million buildings in the next two years, create an immediate job development program, and help put America on track to dramatically decrease energy use in our built environment.

Bob Baugh of the AFL-CIO put it this way: “The nation’s building trades and manufacturing workers have been knocked flat on their backs by the economic downturn.” Retrofitting America’s buildings for energy efficiency can put both back to work immediately and deliver needed energy savings to consumers.

Renovating homes, schools, and commercial buildings to improve their energy efficiency can put 200,000 craftsmen and laborers to work immediately, while providing lasting value by cutting consumers’ utility bills and greenhouse gas emissions. “Rebuilding America” proposes to use existing state energy programs and give state governors the authority to deploy the funds through utilities, public power entities, and other existing entities, under supervision of the state utility commission where appropriate.

A list of the groups supporting this initiative follows, and attached is a copy of their statement of support. We strongly urge you to support this step, which will provide not just an immediate economic stimulus but also a good long-term investment in the economy.

Please let us know if we can help in any way. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the weeks and months ahead.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Timothy E. Wirth

Groups supporting Rebuilding America

AFL-CIO
AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department
Allianz of America
Associated Builders & Contractors
Associated General Contractors of America
Center for American Progress
Ceres
Con Edison
Consumer Federation of America
Copper Development Association
Council on Competitiveness
Digital Energy Solutions Campaign
Edison Electric Institute
Energy Future Coalition
Intel
Jones Lang LaSalle
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
PG&E Corp. (Pacific Gas & Electric)
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
The Real Estate Roundtable
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
United States Green Building Council