



HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.
1245 FARMINGTON AVENUE, 2nd Floor, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107
Tel: 860-521-1905 Fax: 860-521-3107 Web: www.hbact.org

*Your Home
Is Our
Business*

March 6, 2009

To: Senator Eric Coleman, Co-Chairman
Representative Brendan Sharkey, Co-Chairman
Members of the Planning & Development Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: Raised Bill 1033, An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Green Buildings

The HBA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with almost one thousand, three hundred (1,300) member firms statewide, employing tens of thousands of Connecticut citizens. Our members are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to this diverse industry. We also created and administer the Connecticut Developers Council, a professional forum for the land development industry in the state.

The HBA of Connecticut is deeply involved in green building issues and we conduct our own Build Green Connecticut™ Program (see our web site at www.hbact.org and click on Build Green Connecticut near the bottom of the home page). Tax incentives to help move the marketplace toward green building are a good idea, but we strongly urge the committee to amend RB 1033 to include other nationally recognized green building rating systems or standards.

In particular, we urge the committee to review Raised Bill 6284 (File Copy # 21), AAC Adoption of a Model Energy Code and Green Building Standards, unanimously passed by the Public Safety Committee. RB 6284 recognizes that three green building rating systems or standards are nationally recognized. In addition to the LEED Green Building Rating System, there exists the Green Globes rating system for commercial buildings and the National Green Building Standard for residential construction.

The National Green Building Standard is the only green building rating system that has been approved by ANSI, American National Standards Institute, as a national standard. LEED and Green Globes have not attained this status. LEED, Green Globes and the National Green Building Standard all compete for the attention of the marketplace. Adopting a tax credit for only one such system inappropriately interferes in this competition and ignores the reality that other nationally recognized rating systems or standards are equally, if not more, deserving of official state promotion.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the committee incorporate the National Green Building Standard, as approved by ANSI, in the bill to help move the residential marketplace toward more green building.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.