



American Forest & Paper Association

Testimony Submitted for the Record

Public Services and Security Committee Public Hearing

An Act Concerning Adoption of a Model Energy Code and Green Building Standards

February 3, 2009

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on **HB 6284 An Act Concerning Adoption of a Model Energy Code and Green Building Standards**. AF&PA supports the objective and approach to green building in Connecticut as outlined in this proposal.

AF&PA is the national trade association of the forest, pulp, paper, paperboard, and wood products industry. We represent 130 companies and related associations focused on producing essential products for people from renewable and recyclable resources that sustain the environment. The forest products industry generates \$200 billion a year in sales and employs more than one million workers — on par with the nations automotive and plastics industries. The industry is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 48 states. In Connecticut, our industry employs more than 7,000 individuals and operates more than 80 manufacturing facilities.

AF&PA and its members are committed to reducing the environmental impact of buildings by encouraging energy-efficient, environmentally responsible choices during the design and building process. We support scientifically justified systems and standards to reduce environmental impacts. *We support this legislation because it gives equal credit to multiple green building rating systems - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®), Green Globes system, and NAHB National Green Building Program™ - providing for market competition and improved efficiencies.*

AF&PA is aware the design and construction industry, code officials and green building experts came together to propose these corrective language changes to PA 07-242, sec. 78. These changes are necessary to keep Connecticut a leader in green building practices.

Wood is a vital part of any sustainable green building practice. It is among the most energy-efficient and environmentally benign of all building materials. Wood can make essential contributions to green building that competing materials cannot given that wood is a renewable resource that sequesters significant amounts of carbon — both in

forests and in products – and provides high levels of energy efficiency. Nearly one-third of carbon sequestered in trees remains sequestered in wood products for the remainder of their useful life, which in the case of some products (such as building materials) can be decades or centuries. According to EPA estimates, wood and paper products produced each year store the equivalent of 100 million tons of carbon dioxide. This is equivalent to eliminating the carbon dioxide emissions from 18 million passenger cars - 13% of all passenger cars on the road in the U.S.

Connecticut will be recognizing multiple rating systems. By allowing choice among multiple rating systems, builders, designers, and developers in Connecticut will be able to use the system(s) that best fit its regional needs and products. Further, the natural competition that will exist between these rating systems will have the added benefit of improving all of them.

*The forest products industry supports the construction of environmentally-friendly and energy efficient green buildings as proposed in **HB 6284**.* Wood products can contribute greatly toward the benefits offered by green buildings. AF&PA appreciates this opportunity to present its views to the Committee regarding the design and construction of green buildings in Connecticut.

Please contact our legislative advocate TJ Casey, at (860) 229-0301, with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.