



*State and
Consumer Services Agency*

BILL LEONARD
SECRETARY
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African American Museum
Building Standards Commission
Consumer Affairs
Fair Employment & Housing
Fair Employment & Housing Commission
Franchise Tax Board
General Services
Insurance Advisor
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Personnel Board
Public Employees' Retirement System
Teachers' Retirement System
Technology Services
Victim Compensation &
Government Claims Board
Information Security & Privacy Protection

April 19, 2010

Mr. Rick Fedrizzi
President & CEO
U.S. Green Building Council
2101 L Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C 20037

Dear Mr. Fedrizzi

As Secretary for the California State and Consumer Services Agency, I have the privilege of serving as the Chair of the California Building Standards Commission. In this capacity, Governor Schwarzenegger has charged me with overseeing the building codes enacted by the Commission so as to ensure continued innovative and eco-friendly building in the State of California.

Governor Schwarzenegger is dedicated to maintaining the most energy efficient and sustainable building codes in California. In 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger issued an Executive Order that called for state building construction to meet the LEED Silver Standard (S-20-04). The Governor wanted to move the state toward a comprehensive program of energy efficiency, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and better utilization of construction materials. At that time, he believed that, although the LEED Standard needed some improvements, it was the leading private mechanism for achieving these objectives. The Governor also directed the California Building Standards Commission to develop a statewide green building code. That code was approved in January of this year – the first in the nation.

Today, however, I am writing concerning the U.S. Green Building Council's benchmarks for forest certification in the LEED Standard (Materials and Resources Section 7). It is my understanding that although this section is under review, the current Standard only accepts wood products from forests certified under the Forest Stewardship Council.

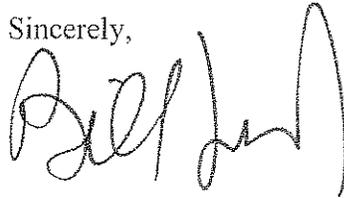
In California, our forest practice laws and regulations are second to none. Over the past 37 years we have developed a comprehensive system of environmental review for all private timber harvesting activities which incorporates vigorous measures for resource protection. In addition, many of our timberland owners have their lands certified through one of the major forest certification programs. There are several widely recognized programs which encourage forest sustainability while promoting the conservation of natural resources. In my view, the LEED Standard should recognize wood products

produced in California as well as those certified under all major forest certification programs in North America including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council, the American Tree Farm System, and Canadian Standards Association.

By limiting recognition to FSC products, the LEED Standard is eliminating 90 percent of the private timber harvested in California. Yet, LEED accepts FSC-certified products from such places as China, Russia, Malaysia, and Brazil. This is unacceptable for a standard that is as widely recognized as LEED. In fact, only about 10 percent of the world's forests are certified under any certification program. It seems to me that the LEED Standard should encourage broader use of forest certification, not limit the acceptance to only one forest certification program.

As you move forward with your review of the forest certification benchmarks, I strongly urge you to adopt a standard that will recognize California's forest products as well as those produced under the major forest certification programs I described above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Leonard
Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency



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May 13, 2010

Bill Leonard
 Secretary
 State and Consumer Services Agency
 915 Capitol Mall, Suite 200
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Leonard:

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments and concerns related to revisions to the LEED Materials and Resources credits that reward the use of certified wood products and the associated draft USGBC Forest Certification Benchmark. As per the LEED foundation documents that drive the ongoing transparent and consensus-based evolution of the LEED rating system, the credits as originally developed have evolved significantly based in part on thousands of comments acquired during two previous public comment periods. The third public comment period closed on March 14 and we are now reviewing the 1,173 comments received in that process.

The uniquely challenging and vitally important question of sustainability in the wood industry is one that benefits enormously from this type of process—and we appreciate your involvement as we work to ensure LEED continues to play a central role in raising the bar on forestry practices.

As you know, the mission of the U.S. Green Building Council is to drive transformation of the entire building industry toward sustainability. If we are to change the practices of the marketplace, we must focus on helping everyone in every industry improve the sustainability of their business practices. Because buildings are complex systems of systems, performance in one area is inextricably intertwined with another. Therefore we must look across all elements and encourage each of them to rise to a level that will usher in true change.

This is the intent of the proposed USGBC Forest Certification Benchmark. We are certain that if we clearly articulate what USGBC expects from exemplary forest certification, we will spur competition, evolve standards, and – ultimately – increase the capacity for sustainability across the entire industry. This benchmark has been several years in the making and represents the work of thousands of stakeholders from across the built continuum, as well as the technical expertise of Sylvatica and the Yale Program on Forest Policy and Governance.

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As always, I take the opinions and concerns of our membership and stakeholders very seriously, and I appreciate you bringing your thoughts to my attention. Your concern is a significant reason we are committed to thoroughly and openly exploring this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Fedrizzi".

S. Richard Fedrizzi
President, CEO and Founding Chairman