



STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue  
GOVERNOR

November 3, 2010

Mr. Richard Fedrizzi  
President and CEO  
US Green Building Council  
2101 L St. NW, Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20037

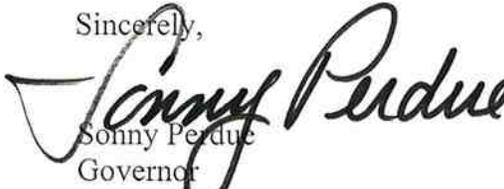
Dear Mr. Fedrizzi:

I am greatly concerned that the US Green Building Council (USGBC) draft benchmarks to assess forest certification standards in its LEED green building rating system favor only Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. The USGBC should include a fair assessment of all credible forest certification programs as well as wood from well-managed forests.

Georgia has more timberland than any state, over 24 million acres of which 92% is privately owned. We have a strong forest industry that annually contributes over \$28 billion of economic impact to our state. We are extremely proud of the environmentally sound practices utilized by our landowners and our forest industry. An extensive assessment and report of our forestlands completed by the Georgia Forestry Commission and a diverse group of stakeholder's document that our forestlands are being sustainably managed. If the USGBC maintains the current restrictive language that favors only FSC certification, very few acres of Georgia's forestland will qualify.

I urge you to make a board decision to adopt a set of benchmarks to recognize well managed wood from our state as well as all credible forest certification programs including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), American Tree Farm System (ATFS), and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). In doing so, USGBC can join other government agencies and green building rating programs in their recognition of wood as an environmentally friendly building material and in their recognition of all credible forest certification standards.

Sincerely,

  
Sonny Perdue  
Governor