

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 15, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Fedrizzi:

As members who are both active on forestry issues and represent districts with many small woodlot owners, we are writing to express our concern over the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.

While we appreciate the efforts of the USGBC to promote energy efficiency and environmental conservation, we are very concerned that the LEED rating system's wood credit does not recognize two of the largest sustainable forest certification programs in the United States – the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) – and recognizes only Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood.

Over 84 million acres of forests in the United States are certified to SFI or ATFS, almost three times the amount of forests certified to FSC nationally. If the LEED rating system maintains the status quo and does not recognize SFI or ATFS, many builders seeking LEED certification would be discouraged to use third-party certified SFI and ATFS products grown here in the United States. Furthermore, by requiring wood to have third party certification to receive a credit and not forcing that requirement on steel and concrete, the USGBC is discouraging the overall use of a product that uses less energy and produces less pollution in its manufacturing.

We understand that the LEED rating system has proposed draft benchmarks to evaluate forest certification programs, but we are concerned that they do not offer a clear and simple way to give credit for all of the major third-party forest certification systems operating in the United States. Broadening the number of eligible certification programs could stimulate the market for American produced forest products and the communities and jobs that depend on both.

We urge you and your organization to expedite your review of forest management certification systems and to accept all credible forest management certification systems for qualification under the LEED rating system. Doing so will help ensure strong

markets for domestic lumber producers and our forest landowners, which is vital to the future of our forests and our forest industry workers.

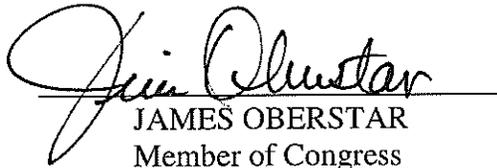
Sincerely,



KURT SCHRADER  
Member of Congress



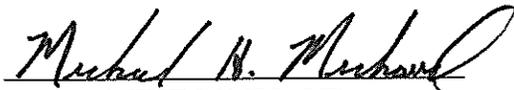
BOB GOODLATTE  
Member of Congress



JAMES OBERSTAR  
Member of Congress



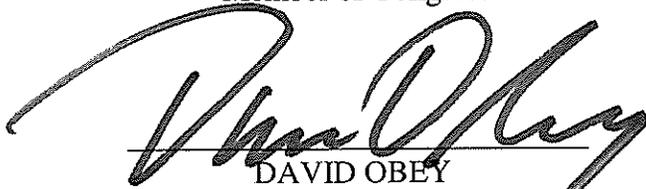
NORM DICKS  
Member of Congress



MIKE MICHAUD  
Member of Congress



WALTER JONES  
Member of Congress



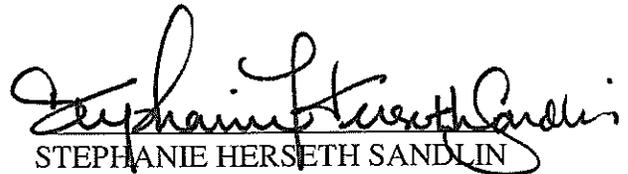
DAVID OBEY  
Member of Congress



BRAD ELLSWORTH  
Member of Congress



JO BONNER  
Member of Congress



STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN  
Member of Congress



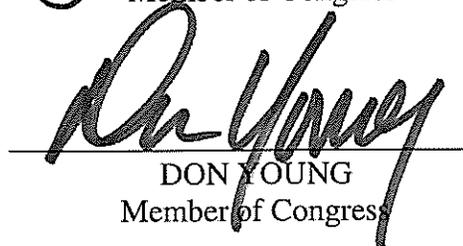
GREG WALDEN  
Member of Congress



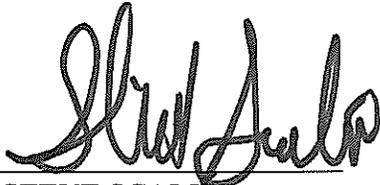
JOHN SPRATT  
Member of Congress



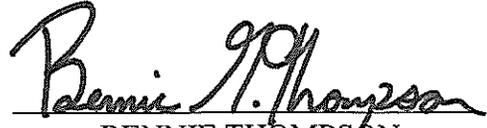
FRANK LUCAS  
Member of Congress



DON YOUNG  
Member of Congress



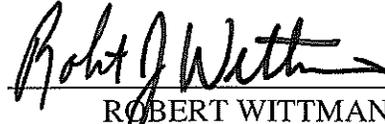
STEVE SCALISE  
Member of Congress



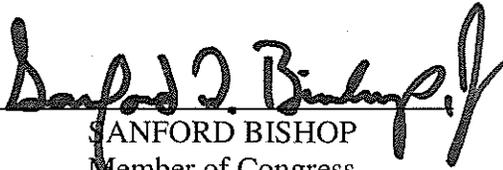
BENNIE THOMPSON  
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WILLIAM OWENS  
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ROBERT WITTMAN  
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GLENN THOMPSON  
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Member of Congress



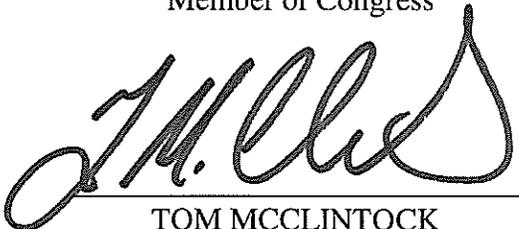
WALLY HERGER  
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DENNY REHBERG  
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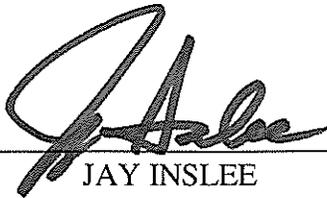
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



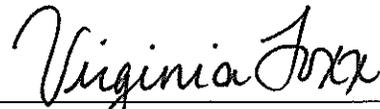
TOM MCCLINTOCK  
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JAY INSLEE  
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JOHN SHADEGG  
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MAC THORNBERRY  
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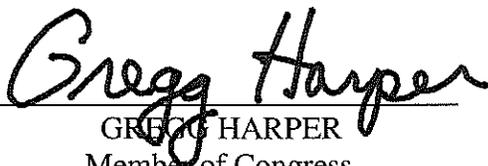
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GREGG HARPER  
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CYNTHIA LUMMIS  
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ROY BLUNT  
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STEVE KAGEN  
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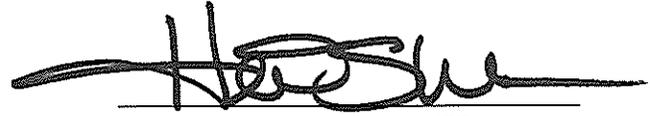
WALT MINNICK  
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MIKE SIMPSON  
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DAN BOREN  
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HEATH SHULER  
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CHARLES BOUSTANY  
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TOM COLE  
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MARSHA BLACKBURN  
Member of Congress



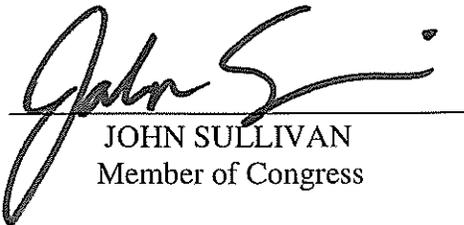
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Member of Congress



SCOTT MURPHY  
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PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



JOHN SULLIVAN  
Member of Congress



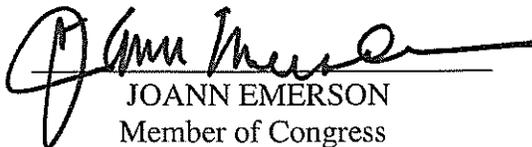
MIKE ROSS  
Member of Congress



JOHN SALAZAR  
Member of Congress



BART STUPAK  
Member of Congress



JOANN EMERSON  
Member of Congress



RICK BOUCHER  
Member of Congress



VERNON EHLERS  
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH  
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SHELLEY BERKLEY  
Member of Congress



MIKE MCINTYRE  
Member of Congress



BEN CHANDLER  
Member of Congress



TIM HOLDEN  
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress



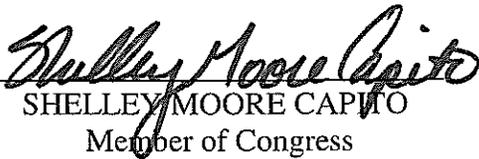
SAM GRAVES  
Member of Congress 110-6



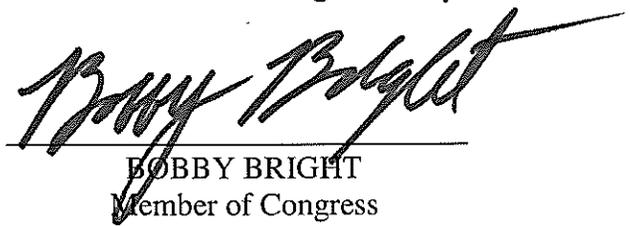
JOE BARTON  
Member of Congress



BRETT GUTHRIE  
Member of Congress



SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO  
Member of Congress



BOBBY BRIGHT  
Member of Congress



THOMAS PETRI  
Member of Congress



ROBERT ADERHOLT  
Member of Congress



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ARTUR DAVIS  
Member of Congress



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MIKE ROGERS  
Member of Congress



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DOC HASTINGS  
Member of Congress



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MICHAEL ARCURI  
Member of Congress



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PARKER GRIFFITH  
Member of Congress



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GEOFF DAVIS  
Member of Congress



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DAVID REICHERT  
Member of Congress



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G.K. BUTTERFIELD  
Member of Congress



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BILL SHUSTER  
Member of Congress