



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

November 16, 2009

Mr. Rick Fedrizzi
President
U.S. Green Building Council
1800 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Fedrizzi:

The state of Michigan, with over 19.3 million acres of forested land, applauds the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for promoting environmentally sound building standards. While the USGBC Forest Certification Benchmark is an outstanding tool for recognizing and encouraging sustainable forestry practices, it is important that the program recognize all major forest certification programs. For example, the State of Michigan manages almost three million acres of state-owned forests which received certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council programs, both nationally recognized sustainable forest certification programs, however, the Green Building Council only recognizes the Forest Stewardship Council program.

Michigan has a diverse and thriving forest products industry and is a national leader in certification of forest lands and sustainable forest management. Forest certification systems confirm that wood and fiber from certified forests is sustainably produced and can be a key component of green buildings around the world. Independent third party certifications of forest lands improve forest management, and have a significant role in our state's economy. In Michigan, some third party independent systems include American Tree Farm System, Forest Stewardship Council, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and wood harvested by loggers certified to the Master Loggers Certification standard.

Michigan forest products have the potential to provide significant advances to the effort to make America's building infrastructure environmentally-friendly. I therefore encourage USGBC to ensure that its proposed Forest Certification Benchmark accommodates all of the major forest certification schemes and recognize them in its rating systems. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer M. Granholm".

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor