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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

March 16, 2011

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

Subject: Inclusion of SFI and American Tree Farm System Certification by USGBC

Dear Mr. Fedrizzi,

Wisconsin has placed great value and pride in making sustainable forest management a priority. Certified forests are a key component of this commitment and Wisconsin proudly boasts 7.2 million acres of certified forestland. Of that, 4.2 and 2.4 million acres are certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) system and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), respectively. I am urging the USGBC to expand the certification systems recognized in the current LEED rating system for green building to include SFI and ATFS certifications. Limiting certified wood to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system excludes a great deal of third party verified, well managed timber from use in the LEED program.

Further, given wood is a renewable resource, I am asking for USGBC to consider expanding the use of wood within the current rating system. An expansion of the use of wood allowed in LEED projects represents an important and environmentally responsible way for Wisconsin companies to contribute within the growing arena of green building.

Difficult economic times and increasing awareness of the need for environmentally responsible raw material use is a clear reality. It is important to both Wisconsin's and the nation's economy that these systems recognize the value of domestically produced wood products in comparison with imported wood products. Forestry practices in Wisconsin often exceed the practices observed in other parts of the world. In addition, transportation related emissions are far lower due to shorter hauling distances. The use of domestic wood supports local economies, creating and maintaining jobs. Improving local markets also encourages the retention of forestlands rather than conversion to other uses.

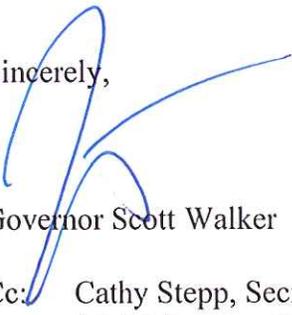
As you are well aware, I am not alone in my views on these issues. Wisconsin will favor green building programs that recognize the environmental benefits of utilizing wood as a key

Mr. Richard Fedrizzi Letter
Page 2

component in construction. This includes choosing programs that recognize multiple certification systems such as SFI, ATFS and FSC.

I thank you for your support and consideration on this issue of great importance to the State of Wisconsin and the sustainable management of our forests.

Sincerely,



Governor Scott Walker

Cc: Cathy Stepp, Secretary - DNR
Matt Moroney, Deputy Secretary - DNR
Paul DeLong, Administrator, Division of Forestry- DNR