

COLLIN C. PETERSON, MINNESOTA,  
CHAIRMAN

TIM HOLDEN, PENNSYLVANIA,  
VICE CHAIRMAN

MIKE McINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA  
LEONARD L. BOSWELL, IOWA  
JOE BACA, CALIFORNIA  
DENNIS A. CARDOZA, CALIFORNIA  
DAVID SCOTT, GEORGIA  
JIM MARSHALL, GEORGIA  
STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, SOUTH DAKOTA  
HENRY CUELLAR, TEXAS  
JIM COSTA, CALIFORNIA  
BRAD ELLSWORTH, INDIANA  
TIMOTHY J. WALZ, MINNESOTA  
STEVE KAGEN, WISCONSIN  
KURT SCHRADER, OREGON  
DEBORAH L. HALVORSON, ILLINOIS  
KATHLEEN A. DAHLKEMPER, PENNSYLVANIA  
ERIC J.J. MASSA, NEW YORK  
BOBBY BRIGHT, ALABAMA  
BETSY MARKEY, COLORADO  
FRANK KRATOVL, Jr., MARYLAND  
MARK H. SCHAUER, MICHIGAN  
LARRY KISSELL, NORTH CAROLINA  
JOHN A. BOCCIERI, OHIO  
SCOTT MURPHY, NEW YORK  
EARL POMEROY, NORTH DAKOTA  
TRAVIS W. CHILDERS, MISSISSIPPI  
WALT MINNICK, IDAHO

# U.S. House of Representatives

## Committee on Agriculture

Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-6001

(202) 225-2171  
(202) 225-8510 FAX

May 27, 2010

FRANK D. LUCAS, OKLAHOMA,  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

BOB GOODLATTE, VIRGINIA  
JERRY MORAN, KANSAS  
TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON, ILLINOIS  
SAM GRAVES, MISSOURI  
MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA  
STEVE KING, IOWA  
RANDY NEUGEBAUER, TEXAS  
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS  
JEFF FORTENBERRY, NEBRASKA  
JEAN SCHMIDT, OHIO  
ADRIAN SMITH, NEBRASKA  
ROBERT E. LATTA, OHIO  
DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE  
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, MISSOURI  
GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA  
BILL CASSIDY, LOUISIANA  
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, WYOMING

ROBERT L. LAREW,  
CHIEF OF STAFF

ANDREW W. BAKER,  
CHIEF COUNSEL

NICOLE SCOTT,  
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

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

Dear Mr. Fedrizzi:

I appreciate the efforts of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) to promote conservation measures and the environmental sustainability of forests, and share your commitment to our natural resources.

However, I am writing to express my concern about USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. LEED, in its current form, discriminates against wood products produced in our own backyard. Further, it prohibits the two largest sustainable forest certification programs in the U.S., the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), from gaining credit by recognizing only Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood.

Without change, many LEED builders will turn away reputable third-party SFI and ATFS domestically-produced certified wood in favor of FSC certified wood, the vast majority of which comes from other countries that may not uphold our same high standard of sustainability.

I understand that the USGBC has developed draft benchmarks to evaluate forest certification programs but that the process has largely ignored the need to address its exclusive recognition of FSC. Products from SFI and ATFS certified forests continue to be ineligible for the LEED forest certification. This is completely counterproductive to enhancing and improving the viability and sustainability of our country's forest products industry.

Your speedy acceptance of other sustainable forest certification programs 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,



Collin C. Peterson  
Chairman