



STATE OF ARKANSAS
MIKE BEEBE
GOVERNOR

June 3, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Fedrizzi:

I am writing today about an important issue to the forest industry in Arkansas, where forest owners and managers have a strong and deep commitment to environmental sustainability, which they demonstrate through the management of millions of acres of private and public forest lands in our State. The forest-products industry is the State's largest manufacturing sector, which directly employs more than 30,000 Arkansans and contributes more than \$1.5-billion in payroll annually.

Arkansas has a long history of sustainable forest management, and we appreciate the efforts of the U.S. Green Building Council in promoting energy efficiency and conservation in building design and construction. I am sorry to learn, however, that the USGBC's LEED-rating system does not provide for wood products and prohibits the two largest sustainable forest-certification programs in the U.S., the SFI and the ATFS, from gaining credit, and recognizes only FSC-certified wood. In Arkansas, SFI's certified acreage is five times the size of FSC acreage, while nearly 2,500 Arkansas families managed more than 1.1 acres of forest under the ATFS. Additionally, Arkansas is home to two National Forests, covering almost three million acres, yet, it is my understanding that wood products produced from National Forest timber are also ineligible for green credits under the LEED standards. We feel that USGBC is under-utilizing a product that is entirely renewable, energy-efficient, and provides numerous public benefits, including carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and water-quality protection.

I urge your organization to re-evaluate your approach to forest-management certification systems and to accept and to accept all credible forest-management certification systems as qualifying under the LEED standards. Thank you for your consideration of this request to ensure strong markets for domestic lumber producers and our forest landowners who are vital to the future of our forests and forest-industry workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Beebe".

Mike Beebe

MB:jb