



STATE OF WASHINGTON

October 2, 2008

S. Richard Fedrizzi
President, CEO, and Founding Chairman
U.S. Green Building Council
1800 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Fedrizzi:

Washington is the second leading lumber producing state in the nation and a leader in responsible forest management, with one of the most advanced systems of forest practices regulation in the country. Our practices are recognized in a federal Habitat Conservation Plan under the Endangered Species Act for protection of aquatic species on 9.3 million acres of state and private forest lands.

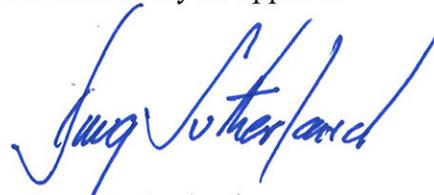
We appreciate the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) efforts to address certified wood in green buildings by providing benchmarks for wood certification programs. Washington State has adopted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver as a standard for state funded construction and has done so in a way that recognizes building materials from all of Washington's sustainable forests.

By recognizing internationally endorsed certification systems, the proposed changes in USGBC policy have the potential to include forest products from more than 800 certified family forest owners in our state. Many more small forest parcels can be included as certification systems bring more lands under recognized sustainable management practices. Forest products from 4.8 million acres of third party audited state and industrial forestlands also have the opportunity to be included for LEED rating points under proposed changes in USGBC policy.

We endorse your efforts to provide all forest certification systems with the opportunity to participate in the Council's program through the development of a fair and unbiased set of benchmark criteria. Washington State looks forward to working with the USGBC to further develop the benchmarks and the system of evaluation that will ultimately be applied.

Sincerely,


Christine O. Gregoire
Governor


Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands