



January 16, 2008

District of Columbia

*Bladensburg**

Bowie

College Park

Frederick

Frederick County

Gaithersburg

Greenbelt

Montgomery County

Prince George's County

Rockville

Takoma Park

Alexandria

Arlington County

Fairfax

Fairfax County

Falls Church

Loudoun County

Manassas

Manassas Park

Prince William County

**Adjunct member*

To Whom It May Concern:

On December 12, 2007, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) approved the report, "Greening the Metropolitan Washington Region's Built Environment." The report was prepared by the Intergovernmental Green Building Group (IGBG), a standing technical committee of COG, consisting of a cross-jurisdictional group of local government staff and interested non-governmental participants who are committed to green building as a sustainable development strategy for the metropolitan Washington region.

The Green Building Report contains recommendations that support COG's vision to making the region a national leader in green building, with local governments leading in innovation and stewardship. The adopted policy identified the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) as the region's preferred green building rating system for new local government construction, as well as for private sector commercial construction and high-rise residential projects. During our deliberations in developing these recommendations, the Committee also identified the need for updating building codes to reflect the green standards and regulations that are being implemented throughout our region.

It is my understanding that the International Code Council (ICC) is currently in the process of developing its 2009 model building and energy codes, which will guide energy efficiency standards for an estimated 3 million homes and buildings slated for construction nationwide through 2012. We believe that the proposed strengthening of the energy code by 30% is not only consistent with the Green Building recommendations, but also complements the policy framework outlined in the 2006 Washington Regional Energy Strategic Plan developed by COG. The Strategic Energy Plan identifies energy use in buildings as one of the key focus areas for energy efficiency in building codes.

IGBG supports proposals to strengthen the energy efficiency components of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and stands in opposition to proposals that weaken the IECC.

If you have any questions regarding our support, please call me at 703-228-3599 or George Nichols at 202-962-3355.

Respectfully,

Joan Kelsch

Joan Kelsch, Chair
Intergovernmental Green Building Group
Arlington County, Virginia

