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**D.C. on Track to Adopt New, Ultra-Green Energy Code**

*Under 2012 Model Code, New Buildings Would Be 30 Percent More Energy Efficient*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 28, 2011 – As the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) rolls off the presses, the District of Columbia – known as an early adopter of green policies and standards – looks set to become one of the first jurisdictions to adopt it. D.C. is currently revising its construction code, which includes minimum energy requirements that buildings must meet. Those rules will become more stringent if the new model energy code is adopted.

“Strong energy codes are essential for making D.C.’s buildings greener and more energy efficient,” said Councilmember Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3). “Adopting the 2012 IECC would help to cut energy use city-wide, lower energy costs for residents and businesses, and improve the urban environment.”

The hallmark of the 2012 IECC is the “30 Percent Solution,” a set of energy improvements—developed by the broad-based Energy Efficient Codes Coalition (EECC)—that will result in energy efficiency gains of 30 percent or higher over the 2006 version. These improvements would ensure that new buildings have tighter thermal envelopes, better insulation, and at least 75 percent energy efficient lighting. The D.C. Green Building Act of 2006 calls for construction code revisions at least every three years which incorporate as many green building practices as possible for the Washington, D.C., urban environment.

“We hope to be one of the first jurisdictions in the country to adopt the 2012 IECC,” said Cliff Majersik, executive director of the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT). “This strong package of building energy code improvements will result in lower utility bills for D.C. homeowners, create green jobs for city residents, and protect our climate by reducing the amount of energy we waste.”

D.C.’s code is currently under revision by the Construction Codes Coordinating Board (CCCB), which is overseen by the city’s Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). Ethan Landis, president of Landis Construction and a CCCB member, said, “DCRA and the CCCB are working hard to push forward substantive improvements in D.C.’s energy codes – and other green codes – that the city requires its buildings to follow.”

The 2012 IECC, published by the International Code Council, is a model code: It can only become law in a jurisdiction where the local government votes to adopt it. Local government officials from around the country helped develop it, and the town of Durham, N.H., has already adopted it.

D.C. sent 12 representatives to the 2012 IECC Final Action Hearings in Charlotte, N.C., in November 2010, and those representatives overwhelmingly supported the 30 Percent Solution.