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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARYLAND IS FIRST STATE TO ADOPT NEW ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE FOR BUILDINGS

Under 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), effective Jan. 1, new and renovated buildings in Maryland will be 15% more energy efficient

Washington, D.C. – December 5, 2011 – Maryland has officially updated the Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS) to reference the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and other 2012 model construction codes issued by the International Code Council (ICC). Effective January 1, 2012, all new buildings constructed in Maryland – both residential and commercial – and renovations of existing buildings will be required to conform to the 2012 IECC. The 2012 version of the IECC stipulates energy efficiency standards roughly 15% higher than those in its previous edition of 2009, which is currently in effect in Maryland.

“We salute Maryland for being the first state in the country to adopt the 2012 IECC,” said Cliff Majersik, executive director of the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT). “Strong energy codes are essential to reducing energy use in buildings. The more efficient Maryland’s buildings are, the more money homeowners and businesses will save on energy costs. Now that Maryland has taken the lead, other states will follow.”

Federal law will require adoption of a more stringent energy standard for commercial buildings. On November 21, the U.S. Department of Energy announced that all states and the District of Columbia must update their energy codes for commercial buildings to meet the efficiency standard of ASHRAE 90.1-2010. The ASHRAE standard is referenced by the 2012 IECC, so adoption of the latter by a state or D.C. will ensure compliance. Maryland will be in compliance well before the federal deadline of October 18, 2013.

Maryland’s 57 jurisdictions are free to amend building codes in light of local conditions, but in the case of energy and accessibility codes, jurisdictions cannot amend them to be weaker than the state building performance standards. Any local amendments are likely to be adopted by mid-2012. The new code is [available online](#). From January through May, Maryland’s Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will host at least eight training sessions for code officials on the 2012 IECC. More information can be found on [the DHCD website](#).

In 2009, IMT provided technical assistance to draft and put in place the state law that requires Maryland and its counties to accelerate energy code adoption when a new version of the IECC is published (every three years).

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR MARKET TRANSFORMATION

The Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting energy efficiency, green building, and environmental protection in the United States and abroad. Much of IMT’s work addresses market failures that inhibit investment in energy efficiency. For more information, visit www.imt.org.