



November 27, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Reid:

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) commends you for your leadership in advancing legislation that will put America on the path towards energy independence. While our nation has made great strides in pursuing energy efficiency and developing renewable energy sources, the AIA believes that the federal government can and must do more to bring energy efficient technologies to the marketplace.

One of the most effective strategies to do this is through tax incentives. We therefore strongly support provisions in the House-passed energy bill, H.R. 3221, that provide tax incentives to spur the construction of energy efficient buildings and encourage businesses to use renewable sources of energy, specifically solar power.

In order to significantly improve energy efficiency in the United States, we must make a serious commitment to designing and constructing more energy efficient buildings. The building sector is one of the largest consumers of energy in our nation and is responsible for a massive share of the electricity used. Section 12013 of H.R. 3221 extends the Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction. This deduction will provide the necessary incentives to stimulate the design and construction of more energy efficient buildings in the United States. We urge Congress to include an extension of the Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction in the final energy legislation.

As the AIA strongly supports the development of renewable sources of energy, we commend the House for extending tax incentives for the use of solar energy in H.R. 3221. Section 11003 will extend the expiring Business Investment Tax Credit for solar energy. This tax credit is critical to ensuring that solar power, one of our nation's cleanest sources of energy, can be fully utilized by businesses across America. We strongly encourage Congress to include Section 11003 in the final energy bill.

This year, Congress has a unique opportunity to pass energy legislation that will set our nation on the path to a secure energy future. To meet this challenge, Congress should

pursue policies that will both reduce the amount of energy our nation's buildings consume and increase the use of renewable sources of energy. Providing tax incentives to achieve these goals is one of the most effective tools Congress can use to achieve these goals. For these reasons the AIA strongly urges Congress to include Sections 11003 and 12013 of H.R. 3221 in the final energy bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Goldberg', written in a cursive style.

Andrew L. Goldberg, Assoc. AIA
Senior Director, Federal Affairs