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May 4, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

I write on behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit organization composed of more than 20,000 member organizations from every sector of the building industry whose core purpose is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life.

We are pleased to express our strong support for H.R. 2187, the 21st Century High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, a bill before the House Education and Labor Committee. This bill will build on the groundwork laid by the recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ensuring that green schools are a priority in our nationwide effort to create green jobs that save energy, water and taxpayers' money.

One American in five attends school every day. Too many of these students, administrators, teachers and staff attend schools that are considered substandard or dangerous to occupant health. This bill's investment in green schools promises to yield positive health and performance benefits for our nation's children and educators, encouraging improvements that maximize taxpayer dollars, decrease demand on municipal infrastructure, protect our environment and put money back into the classrooms.

By their very nature, schools are an investment in the future, preparing the next generation of leaders and paving the way for tomorrow's innovations. Because schools embody our hopes and aspirations for the future, we make an important statement about our dedication to that future by building, repairing and operating schools in the most responsible and sustainable ways possible.

The U.S. Green Building Council commends the leadership this bill represents and urges all members to vote in favor of the 21st Century High-Performing Public School Facilities Act.

Sincerely,

S. Richard Fedrizzi
President, CEO and Founding Chairman
U.S. Green Building Council