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April 28, 2008

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

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council, we would like to thank you for your leadership and express our support for the Loebbeck-Kildee substitute to H.R. 3021, the 21st Century High-Performing Public School Facilities Act. The Council, a nonprofit with more than 15,000 member organizations and nearly 80 local chapters, promotes sustainable buildings and communities that create healthy and prosperous places to live, work and learn.

Improving our nation's school facilities is a vitally important objective, and this bill, as amended, takes America one step closer to achieving this goal.

One American in five attends school every day. More than a quarter of these students and teachers attend schools that are considered substandard or dangerous to occupant health. The amended bill is a significant financial investment in green school construction. It 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 your leadership on this bill and urges all members to vote in favor of the Loebbeck-Kildee substitute to the 21st Century High-Performing Public School Facilities Act.

Sincerely,

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