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June 3, 2008

**Promote Building Energy Efficiency and Support Our Schools  
Vote for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 3021)**

Dear Representative:

We urge you to vote for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 3021) to give our schools much needed support to save energy while updating their facilities. This bill will reduce our country's energy waste and will be an important tool to help provide students with the modern schools they deserve.

H.R. 3021 authorizes \$6.4 billion for grants and low-interest loans to make schools safe, healthy, high-performing, and technologically up-to-date. The bill requires that a portion of the money, increasing from 50 percent in FY09 to 90 percent in FY2013, be used for public school modernization, renovation, or repairs that meet energy efficient green building standards.

Buildings, including school buildings, are the biggest opportunity to reduce our fossil fuel use through energy efficiency. Our reliance on fossil fuels for energy makes us vulnerable to skyrocketing energy prices and is responsible for a huge amount of pollution and global warming emissions. Almost half the energy in the United States is used in buildings, including 75 percent of the electricity.

Much of this energy is wasted. A recent McKinsey Global Institute report found that we could reduce annual United States energy consumption by 11 percent through simple building efficiency measures such as more efficient lighting, heating, and appliances. Achieving this level of energy efficiency would cost \$240 billion – about 1/3 of the cost to supply the same amount of energy through new coal plants – and save consumers \$94 billion annually.

Giving our schools needed support to implement these measures will save a huge amount of energy, reducing pollution and global warming emissions. It will also ease the strain of energy costs on our school districts, and give our students a healthier and more productive learning environment.

For these reasons, we urge you to support H.R. 3021 to help America's youth achieve the modern school facilities they need, and a cleaner and more stable energy future. Do not hesitate to contact Siena Kaplan at 617-747-4307, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Anna Aurilio  
Director, Washington DC Office

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