



January 13, 2004

## **Ribbon Cutting for Energy Efficient Building Beijing, China, January 12, 2004**

### **Remarks by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham**

Thank you for your gracious introduction. It is a great pleasure to be here to join in recognizing and inaugurating this Demonstration Building.

I want to congratulate the Chinese and American project participants and companies for their productive collaboration on this extremely important project. It and others like it will deliver huge benefits to the Chinese people in years to come. It also illustrates better than any words can the productive power of cooperation between our two great countries.

This building consumes 50 percent less energy than a comparable Beijing office. Energy efficiency improvements of this magnitude are important because buildings consume more energy in China and the U.S. than any other sector. Economic growth, environmental quality, and energy security all depend on making buildings as energy and resource efficient as possible.

The energy efficiency design and the technology contained in this building will deliver huge benefits to China, the world's largest construction market. The World Bank estimates that nearly half of all building construction over the next two decades will occur in China.

China has made tremendous strides in recent years in improving the quality of its structures and their performance thanks to its construction sector industrialization policies and emphasis on green high performance building technologies.

The U.S. green building industry has grown rapidly since the early 1990s, spurred by:

- The federal Energy Star program that promotes the use of energy efficient products, homes and buildings
- The U.S. Green Building Council, and by
- LEED, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System.

Indeed, this building is a candidate for LEED's Gold Medal award, a fitting prize to contend for, given Beijing's selection as host of the 2008 Olympics. We wish you every success.

I am confident that this Beijing demonstration project will lead to more widespread use of advanced energy efficient technologies to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions here and elsewhere in China.

The United States looks forward to continuing and increasing cooperation with China. By working together, we and other international partners will help speed the development of a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous world.

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