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July 16, 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 Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit comprising nearly 20,000 member companies and organizations committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

We are pleased to express our strong support for the building-related provisions in Title III of HR 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, a bill before the House Education and Labor Committee. These provisions would 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 K-12 schools and community colleges promises to yield positive health and performance benefits for our nation's children, young adults 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, renovating, modernizing and operating schools in the most responsible and sustainable ways possible.

Sincerely,

Jason Hartke
Director, Advocacy and Public Policy
U.S. Green Building Council