



May 4, 2010

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support H.R. 5019, Home Star Energy Retrofit Act

Dear Representatives:

I am writing on behalf of the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association (NLBMDA), and our 6,000 member companies, to express our support for the "Home Star Energy Retrofit Act" (H.R. 5019), legislation soon to be considered to provide consumer incentives to stimulate energy-efficient home improvements. The building material industry has experienced significant job loss during the housing and economic crisis of the past few years. Retailers of building materials alone have lost over 140,000 jobs since 2006. Incentives for improving home energy efficiency are powerful tools to drive consumer purchases that in turn drive the restoration of jobs across the building supply chain.

Improving the energy efficiency of existing homes and buildings has the potential to reduce our building energy consumption by 25 percent or more. Providing homeowners with incentives to purchase high-performing energy-efficient products will not just result in important energy savings but will also help restore and create American jobs from manufacturing to the retail and construction sectors.

We support incentives such as those in the HomeStar program to facilitate retrofitting across the United States. Many building material suppliers provide installed services of the types of energy-saving products that would be incentivized under HomeStar, such as windows, doors and insulation, and would be able to provide one-stop service to homeowners seeking to take advantage of these new federal rebates. The majority of our members are small businesses, and we have worked with the bill's sponsors and the Department of Energy to ensure that the HomeStar program is implemented in such a way as to ensure retailers of all sizes are able to fully participate in and benefit from the program.

NLBMDA believes that an effective HomeStar program will provide powerful job creation effects across the building supply chain, while also resulting in significant energy savings. We urge you to vote YES on H.R. 5019. Please contact Colleen Levine, Director of Government Affairs, at 202.367.2346 or colleen@dealer.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. O'Brien", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael P. O'Brien
President