

**National Association of Home Builders**

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April 15, 2010

The Honorable Peter Welch  
1404 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Welch:

On behalf of the 175,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I am writing to express our support for your bill, H.R. 5019, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010 (Home Star). NAHB appreciates your efforts to address building efficiency in the segment responsible for the bulk of residential energy loss – i.e., older, existing homes. Based upon the inclusion of language that recognizes the Home Builders Institute (HBI) as a certified workforce program, we believe H.R. 5019 will help homeowners improve the energy efficiency of older homes and achieve meaningful energy savings and job creation in the struggling construction industry.

The inclusion of language to ensure that the HBI workforce program, in connection with Ferris State University, is provided a path to approval by the Department of Energy is extremely important for the bulk of the residential construction and remodeling industry that generally does not participate in the other named programs. We believe the inclusion of the HBI program will improve access to the Home Star program for highly-trained and qualified workers that will transfer career-path skills in weatherization into jobs that will ultimately outlast the short-term incentives of a Home Star program.

NAHB recognizes that the manager's amendment prevents the DOE from utilizing the expedited rulemaking authority granted in Home Star to adopt home labeling. Overall on the issue of labeling, NAHB supports access by homebuyers to information about the energy performance of existing homes. Homebuyers should have information about the relative energy performance of homes in the existing housing stock that have undergone a retrofit. NAHB believes that efforts to restrict that information will impair the ability of homebuyers to effectively consider energy costs when purchasing older homes.

Again, we appreciate your efforts to improve the energy efficiency of older homes and buildings with the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010. NAHB is equally committed to improving our nation's building energy efficiency, saving money for American families and creating jobs for our economy. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this legislation as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stanton", is written over a white background.

Joe Stanton

Cc: Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Honorable Ed Markey, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment  
Honorable Fred Upton, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment