



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Katz
Communications Manager, USGBC
202.742.3738

akatz@usgbc.org

Follow us on Twitter at [@USGBC](https://twitter.com/USGBC)

USGBC Supports Building Star Legislation that Provides Incentives for Building Efficiency Upgrades

New Legislation will create jobs and save energy and money

March 8, 2010 – (Washington, DC) On Thursday, Senators Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) and Mark Pryor (D-Arkansas) introduced green building legislation that will significantly speed economic recovery and move us closer to a clean energy future. The *Building Star* legislation, supported by a large and diverse coalition of environmental, labor, and industry organizations, provides a package of incentives to scale up energy efficiency improvements in existing buildings.

“By unlocking the energy efficiency potential in retrofitting multi-family and commercial buildings, this legislation will help create thousands of jobs, save energy, and save people money,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. “Senator Merkley’s introduction of Building Star, demonstrates the type of leadership we need right now in Congress. He is advancing forward-thinking policy that will drive job creation and harness the engine of green, energy efficient buildings, which represent the most cost-effective and immediate opportunity to save energy and tackle climate change.”

“Every year, the American economy loses more than \$130 billion dollars from leaky, inefficient buildings,” Fedrizzi added. “We can change that through the advancement of programs like Building Star – which would create approximately 150,000 jobs. Senators Merkley and Pryor get the ‘gold star’ for introducing it; now all the Senate has to do is include it in the next jobs package.”

Energy-efficient building retrofit proposals – like Building Star and Home Star, another legislative proposal aimed at stimulating residential energy retrofitting and promoted by President Obama this week on his trip to Georgia – provide a unique policy opportunity to quickly get people back to work, promote energy independence, save money and create healthier places to live, work and learn.

USGBC is focused on greening our existing building stock – homes, schools, and offices – which will create new green jobs that save money and energy – all while addressing our single greatest opportunity to help solve the climate change equation. The McKinsey Report on reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions makes the business case clearly: Greening our existing buildings will make money, and will meet 85% of our new energy demand through 2030.

###

U.S. Green Building Council

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

With a community comprising 78 local affiliates, more than 18,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 140,000 LEED Professional Credential holders, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product from 2009-2013. USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

2101 L St NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20037 · Phone 202 828-7422 · USGBC.org

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO₂ emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

2101 L St NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20037 · Phone 202 828-7422 · USGBC.org