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FOUNDERS

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Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi:

On behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a national nonprofit representing more than 13,000 member companies and organizations committed to cost effective and resource-efficient buildings, I write to encourage full support of H.R. 3017, "The Brownfields Enhancement Economic Redevelopment and Reauthorization Act of 2017."

USGBC commends the committee for its work this Congress in advancing important environmental and energy legislation including H.R. 3017. We believe that reauthorization of the Brownfields program will go a long way to improve the economic and environmental vitality for countless communities across our nation, as there are more than 450,000 Brownfields sites across the U.S. Among the bill's highlights are an expansion of the eligibility of Brownfields grants for nonprofits and a requirement of the EPA to capitalize a revolving loan fund to locate clean energy projects at Brownfields sites.

USGBC is best known as the developer of the LEED rating system, an industry-leading building standard that reduces utility and resource consumption while saving money for families, businesses, and taxpayers. In fact, it is estimated that the green buildings built or renovated in the past four years alone have contributed to \$2.4 billion in energy savings nationally.¹

The Brownfields program holds deep connections with LEED. In order for a project to achieve LEED certification, the project must meet or exceed certain performance criteria. One option is the Brownfield remediation credit, which rewards construction that cleans up and builds on sites with environmental contamination. According to USGBC credit achievement data, about 3,000 projects have accomplished Brownfields redevelopment points, a significant proportion of all LEED-certified projects. Accompanying certification come the economic and environmental benefits that stem from Brownfield redevelopment: strong job creation, increased property values, and eliminated hazardous areas.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s own Brownfields Redevelopment Program² has a documented track record of success including:

- Leveraging \$16.11 per EPA dollar expended
- Created more than 124,760 jobs nationwide

Thanks in part to LEED, the private sector has joined the EPA and other publically-funded programs to encourage Brownfield redevelopment. The partnership between

¹ U.S. Green Building Council and Booz Allen Hamilton. "[2015 Green Building Economic Impact Study.](#)" September 2015.

² Environmental Protection Agency. "[Brownfields Program Accomplishments and Benefits.](#)" May 1, 2017.



our certification and the Brownfields program has directly fostered thousands of successful remediation efforts. We hope passing H.R. 3017 will facilitate even more environmental and economic redevelopment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further. We hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Howard", enclosed within a thin rectangular border.

Bryan Howard
Legislative Director
U.S. Green Building Council

Cc: Chairman Greg Walden, Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Chairman Shimkus, Ranking Member Tonko