



September 14, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Bldg
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
1011 Longworth House Office Bldg
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

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 "Rural Energy Savings Program Act" legislation you plan to introduce to extend retrofitting financing opportunities to homeowners in rural areas. The building material industry has experienced significant job loss during the housing and economic crisis of the past few years. 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.

As you know, improving the energy efficiency of existing homes and buildings has the potential to reduce our building energy consumption by 25 percent or more. While some incentives currently exist for homeowners, the up-front costs of performing this work are too often a deterrent. By providing financing through existing relationships with electric cooperatives, homeowners in underserved areas will be more readily able to undertake important energy-efficiency retrofits. Small and independent building material retailers, located in rural communities across the country, look forward to the increased business opportunities programs such as the Rural Energy Savings Program will bring to their communities.

NLBMDA believes that effective retrofitting programs, such as the Rural Energy Savings Program, will provide powerful job creation effects across the building supply chain, while also resulting in significant energy savings. We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation. Please contact Colleen Levine, Director of Government Affairs, at 202.367.2346 or colleen@dealer.org if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

Michael P. O'Brien, CAE
President & CEO