

GREEN BUILDINGS

CQC Position:

The Campaign for Quality Construction supports legislation that extends the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which grants tax benefits to companies for making energy efficient improvements to properties, as well as new and expanded credits for “green building” construction.

Issue:

‘Green Building’ has become active in most major cities in the U.S. Though it began as an environmental campaign, it has now become a recognized subdivision within the construction industry. The 108th Congress passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 containing efficiency incentives, many to expire in 2007. The CQC supports legislation that would extend the deduction.

The U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) has been in the forefront in establishing program certifications to build energy efficient buildings with green products at reasonable costs. CQC’s position is that Green Building is energy efficient, healthier and environmentally sustainable – therefore, companies who choose to build green should be granted tax deductions. There are numerous federal initiatives that support LEED.

Status:

H.R. 539 – *Buildings for the 21st Century Act*

Sponsor: Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA-13) with

Co-Sponsors: 136

Last Major Action: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

S. 822 – *EXTEND the Energy Efficiency Incentives Act of 2007.*

Sponsor: Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)

Co-Sponsors: 9

Last Major Action: Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Key Points:

- Green Buildings can reduce operating costs, create, expand and shape markets for green products and services, improve occupant productivity and optimize life-cycle economic performance.
- LEED-certified projects can eliminate 50% of construction and demolition waste.
- State and local governments are active in the green building initiative. Twenty states currently require LEED certification. A number of states offer incentives to private sector developers and owners for green projects.
- Tax incentives to building owners have generated rapid investment results for energy saving construction improvements.

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Campaign for Quality Construction

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