

**Coalition to Extend and Improve the
179D Tax Deduction for Energy Efficient Buildings**

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Chairman Hatch, and Ranking Member Wyden:

We write to urge a multi-year extension of the Section 179D tax deduction for energy efficient commercial and multifamily buildings, with the bipartisan refinements to the provision included in S. 1946, the Tax Relief Extension Act of 2015. Section 179D is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2016 and certainty about this important tax policy's future is critical. We respectfully request that Section 179D be addressed as part of the first moving vehicle.

Our organizations and companies represent a broad spectrum of the U.S. economy. They include real estate, manufacturing, architecture, contracting, engineering, building services, financing, labor, education, environmental and energy efficiency advocates. We represent many small businesses that drive and sustain American job growth.

Section 179D provides a tax deduction to help offset some of the high costs of energy efficient components and systems for commercial and larger multifamily buildings. The 179D deduction has leveraged billions of dollars in private capital, resulted in the energy-efficient construction of thousands of buildings, and created and preserved hundreds of thousands of jobs. It has lowered demands on the power grid, moved our country closer to energy independence, and reduced carbon emissions.

The bipartisan, broadly-supported amendments proposed to Section 179D as part of S. 1946 would strengthen it by allowing tribal governments and non-profits to allocate the deduction to designers. Having been approved by the Senate Finance Committee twice, these commonsense modifications have been carefully analyzed, thoroughly vetted, and should be enacted.

Furthermore, these provisions provide a sound policy bridge to comprehensive tax reform efforts. We also favor improvements to the 179D deduction to better enable retrofits for buildings owned and managed by private sector owners, and encourage that any extenders package incorporate the common sense, technology neutral, and performance based provisions, such as those offered by Senators Cardin, Feinstein, and Schatz in title I of S. 2189 filed last Congress.

**Coalition to Extend and Improve the
179D Tax Deduction for Energy Efficient Buildings**

We strongly urge Congress to extend Section 179D and make the refinements proposed in S. 1946 at the earliest possible opportunity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

ABM Industries
Acuity Brands
Air Barrier Association of America
Air Conditioning Contractors of America
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
Alliance for Industrial Efficiency
Alliance to Save Energy
Alliantgroup, LLC
Ameresco
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Gaming Association
American Gas Association
American Institute of Architects
American Public Gas Association
American Resort Development Association
American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
APPA – Leadership in Educational Facilities
Appraisal Institute
ASHRAE
Associated General Contractors of America
Big Ass Solutions
BLUE Energy Group
Brady Services Inc.
Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International
CCIM Institute
Chestnut Hill South, LLC
Concord Energy Strategies
Consolidated Edison Solutions
Consolidated Energy Solutions
D Squared Tax Strategies
Eaton
Energy Future Coalition
Energy Systems Group
Energy Tax Savers, Inc.
Environmental Defense Fund
Franklin Construction, LLC
Green Light National
Howard J. Moore Company Inc.
Independent Electrical Contractors
Ingersoll Rand
Insulation Contractors Association of America
Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)

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Institute of Real Estate Management
International Council of Shopping Centers
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
Johnson Controls, Inc.
KeyStone Energy
Legrand
Lexicon Lighting Technologies
LightPro Software, LLC
LuNex Lighting
McKinstry Essention, LLC
Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)
Metrus Energy, Inc.
Micromega Systems, Inc.
Mix Avenue, LLC
NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
National Apartment Association
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Electrical Distributors
National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts
National Association of REALTORS®
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Leased Housing Association (NLHA)
National Multifamily Housing Council
National Roofing Contractors Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Haven Health & Racquet, LLC
OpTerra Energy Services
Osram Sylvania
Owens Corning
Pathfinder Engineers & Architects
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors-National Association
PMH Associates, Inc.
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
PowerDown Holdings, Inc.
PowerDown Lighting Systems, Inc.
Rampart Partners LLC
RB+B Architects, Inc.
Real Estate Board of New York
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, a division of S.M.A.R.T. (International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation Workers)
Saybrook Point Inn, LLC
Saybrook Point Marina, LLC
Sierra Club

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Society of Industrial and Office REALTORS®
Sustainable Performance Solutions
TecnerG, LLC
TerraLUX
The Real Estate Roundtable
Trio Electric
Tri-State Light & Energy, Inc.
U.S. Green Building Council
Window & Door Manufacturers Association

cc: Members of the Senate Finance Committee