



April 30, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Bingaman, Ranking Member Murkowski:

On behalf of hundreds of thousands of home contractors around the country, we are writing to urge you to advance the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010 (S. 3177) through the appropriate Senate Committee, to the Senate Floor, and onto the President's desk in all due haste.

Now that the country is aware of the Home Star legislation, some homeowners have stopped their retrofit plans, hoping for federal support. Ironically, while Home Star is in process, it is having a negative impact on the very industry we are hoping to help.

The construction industry cannot wait another minute for the Home Star legislation. Some 1.6 million construction jobs disappeared during the recession, and the unemployment rate for American construction workers is still almost 25% (one in four workers are unemployed) with construction materials manufacturing at 62% of its capacity.

We understand the complexity of the legislative process and are grateful for the fact that Home Star has come so far. However, delays in moving the bill are making a bad situation worse. Contractors are reporting a further 10-15% drop-off in customers directly related to their anticipation of Home Star incentives.

The Home Star legislation, when passed, will create good living-wage jobs in construction and related industries by providing strong short-term incentives for home energy-efficiency improvements. These jobs cannot be outsourced, and materials used in these jobs are on average 90% or more domestically produced.

Efficiency First
c/o 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

On behalf of the thousands of individual contractors whose small and large businesses participate in Efficiency First, thank you for addressing these concerns and speeding efforts to bring this vital legislation to the Senate Floor and the contractor workforce back on the job. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly, or Efficiency First's Government Relations Representative Kara Saul Rinaldi at kara@efficiencyfirst.org or (202) 276-1773.

Sincerely,



Mike Rogers
Chairman



Matt Golden
Policy Chair

CC: Senator Mark Warner
Senator Thomas Carper
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Scott Brown

