

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

December 1, 2015

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 Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We write to urge a multi-year extension of the Section 179D tax deduction for energy efficient commercial and multifamily buildings, with the refinements to the provision included in S. 1946, the Tax Relief Extension Act of 2015, and those included in title I of the Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Act (S. 2189) filed last Congress. Section 179D expired on December 31, 2014.

Our organizations and companies represent a broad spectrum of the U.S. economy. They include real estate, manufacturing, architecture, contracting, 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 amendments proposed to Section 179D as part of S. 1946 would strengthen it by updating the qualifying efficiency standards to a more stringent level, and by allowing tribal governments and non-profits to allocate the deduction to designers. These modifications have been carefully analyzed and thoroughly vetted by myriad stakeholders, and should be incorporated into any tax extenders package. 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 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 you to extend Section 179D, with improvements to the provision, as offered in S. 1946 this Congress and S. 2189 in the previous Congress. 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)
Institute of Real Estate Management

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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
Society of Industrial and Office REALTORS®

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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: Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch
Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden
House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady
House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Sander Levin
Members of the Senate Finance Committee
Members of the House Ways and Means Committee