



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Chairman
Marvin Brown

Vice Chairman
Bob Luoto

Secretary and Treasurer
Mary Motlow

President and CEO
Kathy Abusow

ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR:

Tom Franklin
Senior Vice-President
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership

Roger Sedjo
Senior Fellow
Resources for the Future

Larry Selzer
President and CEO
The Conservation Fund

Steven A. Williams
President & CEO
Wildlife Management Institute

Christopher A. (Chris) Wood
President and CEO
Trout Unlimited

Mike Zagata
Executive Director and CEO
Ruffed Grouse Society

SOCIAL SECTOR:

Marvin Brown
(Chair)
State Forester
Oregon Department of Forestry

Mary Motlow
(Secretary and Treasurer)
representing family forest landowners.

Richard W. (Dick) Brinker
Dean and Professor
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences,
Auburn University

Bill Street, Director
Woodworkers Department
International Association of Machinists
and Aerospace Workers

ECONOMIC SECTOR:

Matthew Donegan
Co-President
Forest Capital Partners LLC

Daniel S. Fulton
President and CEO
Weyerhaeuser Company

Rick R. Holley
President & CEO
Plum Creek Timber Company Inc

Henry H. (Hank) Ketcham
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer
West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd.

Robert A. (Bob) Luoto
(Vice Chair)
representing independent professional
loggers and the American Loggers Council

Patrick J. Moore
Chairman, President & CEO
Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation

July 15, 2010

Mr. S. Richard Fedrizzi
President, CEO & Founding Chairman
U.S. Green Building Council
2101 L Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Rick:

The USGBC's revision of LEED has clearly generated significant interest among the many stakeholders involved in green building over the years. The revision has also sparked a lot of passion, which was driven home for us soon after we launched an online petition calling on USGBC to open LEED to all credible forest certification standards, including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). SFI launched the petition after receiving numerous inquiries from individuals and groups around the world who care deeply about sustainable forestry and green building who wanted to know what they could do to express their views. We referred them to the USGBC website to comment and register to vote on the standard, but we also wanted to provide other ways to voice their concerns and demonstrate their support for a fair and inclusive green building program.

The petition, which is enclosed, has stimulated a tremendous outpouring of support, tapping into a broad and diverse community from across North America and countries around the world. Since its launch on March 16, nearly 6,000 have signed on, joining with forestry and sustainability experts who recognize these standards and their crucial role in promoting responsible forestry. While many of the signatories are not part of the official process and will not be casting votes, they want their voices heard on this important issue that directly impacts their communities, their forests, their families and their jobs. These are people who want to set aside the politics and instead focus on the facts and work with the USGBC to create a program that recognizes the value that all credible forest certification programs bring. Considering the staggering number of responses in the petition, you will not have time to read them all, so here are just a few:

There is no doubt that SFI has established credible standards supporting best management practices in forestry along with verifiable data. It is time for science and verifiable data to drive the certification. Good forestry follows good markets as data will show. We will plant, grow, harvest, and replant as the market grows. This will enhance clean air, clean water, wildlife and all the supports of our quality of life. As 2009 National Tree Farmer of the Year and 2010 Governor's Agricultural Stewardship Award winners, Earl and I know firsthand how important sustainability, stewardship and conservation are to our industry, state and nation. (Wanda Barrs, Owner, Gully Branch Tree Farm in Bleckley County, Georgia)

As a professional forester, forest manager and one who is involved in forest resources research, I can think of no reason the SFI and ATFS forest certification programs should not be accepted and recognized by LEED as respected and creditable standards for the purpose and goals set forth by LEED. (Richard M. Evans)

I do support full recognition of all forest certification systems in LEED. I have performed research on the impacts of FSC and SFI and forest management and those findings consistently find that both systems improve forest management, and are quite similar in their overall effect of doing so. There is no empirical evidence to support favoring one system over another, and both improve forestry in the country. Thus both should be recognized equally. (Fred Cabbage, Professor, NC State University)

I agree with this petition. The CSA, SFI and PEFC standards for sustainable forest management, with which I am familiar, are equally demanding as the FSC and certainly environmentally equivalent to it. Those standards, too, have been developed by qualified and reputable individuals and have demonstrated their effectiveness over their years of application. (Peter J. Murphy, Professor Emeritus in Forestry at the University of Alberta)

We recognize your official comment process, but I'm sure you'd agree it's difficult to ignore the voices of nearly 6,000 people from around the world who took the time to respond on this petition. I encourage you and the staff at the USGBC to take the time to visit the petition at www.ipetitions.com/petition/leed/ and read their comments. And I hope you too will be inspired by the passion and commitment these people share about our forests and who signed the petition in support of a common vision: *For the sake of our forests, our communities, the tens of thousands of family foresters who make their livelihoods from forestry and the future of green building across North America and globally, it is time for USGBC to do the right thing and recognize all credible forest certification standards: SFI, ATFS, CSA, FSC and PEFC.*

Sincerely,



Kathy Abusow
President & CEO
Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.

cc: Materials & Resources Technical Advisory Group (MR TAG)
LEED Steering Committee
Executive Committee