



Dear Senator:

We write on behalf of *Rebuilding America*, a diverse coalition of businesses, labor unions, and energy and consumer advocates committed to making the retrofitting of 50 million homes and businesses the foundation of America's economic recovery and clean energy strategy. We have developed the attached Vision Statement to help drive America forward to meet that goal. We urge you to take immediate action, especially in the pending climate and energy legislation, to support the goal and to adopt the policies contained in our plan.

Building retrofits are the indispensable solution for economic recovery and a clean energy future that creates jobs, reduces consumer energy costs, and curbs carbon pollution. Retrofitting commercial and residential buildings with proven technology can create jobs and large consumer savings quickly, leaving more money in consumers' pockets and lowering costs for America's businesses. By adopting our plan, Congress and the administration can:

- Create and sustain 625,000 good jobs in construction, manufacturing, and related fields;
- Save households an average of \$832 annually by 2030 as part of comprehensive energy/climate protection legislation; and,
- Avoid at least 42 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year, the equivalent of taking 85 million cars off the road by 2020.

*Rebuilding America* is a first-of-its-kind effort to unite the voices of all those with a stake in energy efficiency through retrofits. Our coalition includes:

- **Builder and contractor associations** representing thousands of large and small businesses across the country.
- **Manufacturers** that make the insulation, lighting, building products, and mechanical systems for efficient buildings.
- **Millions of labor union members** represented through the AFL-CIO, the Building and Construction Trades Department, Change to Win and individual unions such as the Sheet Metal Workers International Association.
- **Consumer groups**, such as the Consumer Federation of America, whose members understand that retrofits equal consumer savings.
- **Financial institutions** and insurance companies who see new market opportunities for efficiency investments in buildings that will strengthen their asset base.
- **Energy and environmental advocates**, including our organizations and the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy who view energy efficiency as the cleanest and cheapest way to meet our climate goals.

While Congress has included important provisions on building retrofits in the pending energy and climate legislation, much more should be done to capture the scale of the opportunity.

*Rebuilding America's Vision Statement* proposes a comprehensive package of solutions, including five principal incentives and standards for energy-smart building retrofits:

- **Establish** a stand-alone, national Energy Efficiency Resource Standard of 10% by 2020.



- **Direct** at least one-third of utility allowances for energy efficiency while increasing the state allowance allocation for renewables and efficiency to 10% through 2030, dedicating 25% to retrofits.
- **Support** innovative financing tools for energy efficiency including the Clean Energy Development Administration (CEDA) and its backing for Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Bonds.
- **Establish** provisions for accelerated depreciation, investment tax credits, and other incentives for advanced HVAC, smart meters, and other energy-efficient technologies and advanced appliances.
- **Link** federal financial support for retrofits to standards for job quality, skills training, reporting, and transparency to ensure consumer confidence and verifiable energy savings.

We stand ready to work with you to advance policies to drive wide-scale building retrofits in the coming months. Doing so will help to restore America's economy by creating new jobs and putting savings in every consumer's pocket. For more information, please contact Ladeene Freimuth at (202) 550-2306.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reid Detchon".

Reid Detchon  
Executive Director  
Energy Future Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bracken Hendricks".

Bracken Hendricks  
Senior Fellow  
Center for American Progress