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Dec. 6, 2012 Mike Collignon: (618) 791-6468

**Green Builder® Coalition Supports Energy Efficient Codes in Michigan**

Current discussions in the Michigan legislature are centered on the adoption of an updated energy code for all structures. Moving to the 2012 energy code (IECC) would enable building owners to realize thousands of dollars in return on their efficiency investment. It would also prevent an increase in insurance premiums, shielding property owners from increased costs.

In a recent appearance, Gov. Rick Snyder addressed this most crucial topic. He stated, “We must make sure our energy choices always recognize our responsibility to protect Michigan’s environment. (Protecting the environment) must be one of the pillars on which we make our decisions in the future.” Gov. Snyder went on to say, “Energy efficiency is the best example of a no-regrets policy Michigan can have. It makes us more reliable, more affordable and protects our environment.”

Efficiency improvements don’t hurt ***homebuilders***, but significantly help ***homeowners***. Numerous articles have shown that “green builders” across the nation are weathering the current economic downturn better than their counterparts. Our members are evidence of that conclusion.

Debbie Henderson, Site Supervisor for the Oakland County Habitat chapter and Green Builder® Coalition member, is an advocate for energy efficient homes, especially when it comes to low-income housing. “Operating costs are absolutely critical to a low-income family. A reduced utility bill further protects their ability to provide shelter to their spouse and/or children.”

William Fay, Advocacy Director for the Green Builder® Coalition, supported Hendrickson’s first-hand experience. “According to the DOE, energy savings from the 2012 energy code would reduce annual utility bills by $605/year,” Fay stated.

NAHB is on record in support of the 2012 IECC. Despite resistance at the state level, it is instructive to note that the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) is on record in support of the 2012 IECC. Their resolution states:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the National Association of Home Builders support changes in the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) that increase the residential energy efficiency requirements by 30 percent above the 2006 Edition.

Fay noted, “We’ve seen scare tactics about high costs for new codes in the past, but real life experience shows the minimal added costs are well worth the investment.”

“Ironically, even using the state HBA’s wildly inflated $6,500 cost estimates yields a break-even point of 18 months,” Fay added. “After that point, the homebuyer can put the $605 annual savings into a college fund or some other useful purpose, rather than paying it to the local utility.”

To find out more, please visit [www.energyefficientmichigan.com](http://www.energyefficientmichigan.com).

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**About The Green Builder® Coalition**

The Green Builder® Coalition is a not-for-profit association dedicated to amplifying the voice of green builders and professionals to drive advocacy and education for more sustainable home building practices. We unite individual small builders, building professionals and suppliers to drive policy-change and education for more resource-efficient home building standards. We are an action-oriented community of green builders and professionals dedicated to uniting and growing our joint expertise, values and voice to create stronger standards for sustainable, more environmentally responsible home building.