



Please vote YES on H.R. 5019, the HOME STAR Energy Retrofit Act of 2010

May 6, 2010

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the BlueGreen Alliance (BGA), our 10 national partners — United Steelworkers, Sierra Club, Communications Workers of America, Natural Resources Defense Council, Laborers' International Union of North America, Service Employees International Union, Utility Workers Union of America, the American Federation of Teachers, the Amalgamated Transit Union, and the Sheet Metal Workers International Union of America — and the over 8 ½ million people they represent, we strongly urge you to support H.R. 5019, the HOME STAR Energy Retrofit Act of 2010.

Providing consumers and businesses with incentives to lower their energy bills through efficiency gains will create jobs while saving people money. HOME STAR would establish a rebate program for consumers to invest in energy-efficient appliances, building mechanical systems and insulation, as well as whole-home energy efficiency retrofits. HOME STAR includes quality assurance provisions that will protect consumers and ensure high quality installation. These require a minimum baseline protocol for field inspection. In all cases, reduced inspection rates will be offered for contractors employing a trained and certified workforce.

The program is expected to create more than 130,000 jobs, especially in the hard hit housing sector. HOME STAR's quality assurance provisions makes us confident that the jobs created by the program will be family supporting jobs, utilizing skilled labor to ensure quality work. It will save homeowners an estimated \$9.2 billion on their energy bills.

While passing a comprehensive clean energy and climate change bill — as the House already accomplished — continues to be the most important action Congress can take to create good, clean energy jobs, moving forward on HOME STAR, and hopefully a properly-crafted BUILDING STAR soon, is a positive and significant step forward. America's economic foundation will be strengthened by investments in clean energy and energy efficiency, and ensuring that the clean energy economy benefits workers and consumers.

Please vote for H.R. 5019, the HOME STAR Energy Retrofit Act of 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Foster".

Dave Foster
BlueGreen Alliance