



March 2, 2009

Senator Beverly Gard
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

CC: Representative Ryan Dvorak, David Pippen,

Dear Senator Gard:

The recently signed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 contains investments in clean energy that are unprecedented in scale and scope. We estimate that Indiana could receive **between \$60 and \$70 million** to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy from just one item: the Department of Energy's State Energy Grant Program. However, Indiana's eligibility for this money is in jeopardy because of the status of its residential energy code. In order to be eligible for State Energy Grant Program funding, the governor must certify that the following will be enacted:

“A building energy code (or codes) for residential buildings that meets or exceeds the most recently published International Energy Conservation Code, or achieves equivalent or greater energy savings” (Sec. 410)(a)(2)(A)
and

“A plan for the jurisdiction achieving compliance with the building energy code or codes ... within 8 years of the date of enactment of this Act in at least 90 percent of new and renovated residential and commercial building space.” (Sec. 410)(a)(2)(C)

Indiana currently regulates the energy efficiency of its residential buildings in the Indiana Residential Code and the Indiana Energy Conservation Code. To ensure eligibility for State Energy Grant Program funding, the state need only replace Chapter 11 of the Indiana Residential Code with the 2009 version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), modify the Indiana Energy Conservation Code to reference the 2009 IECC, and develop a compliance plan.

In addition to the millions in grant money obtained, Indiana homeowners stand to benefit substantially from the cost effective energy efficiency required by the newest version of the IECC. The respected energy consultancy ICF International estimates that implementing the 2009 IECC in Indiana's climate zones would save homeowners more than **\$220 annually** in energy bills. This money can be saved, or spent in Indiana's economy to generate jobs.

We urge you to secure ARRA funding by including provisions for updating the residential energy code to the most recent version of the IECC in code legislation that comes before your committee. The stimulus bill gives you the opportunity to deliver lower energy bills, green jobs, and cleaner air to Indiana's citizens.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jesse Kharbanda
Executive Director, Hoosier Environmental Council

Grant Smith
Executive Director, Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana

Steve Francis
Co-chair, Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter

Leslie Webb
Carmel Green Initiative

Wendy B. Jaehn
Executive Director, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Henry Henderson
Director, Midwest Program, Natural Resources Defense Council