



April 18, 2005

Mr. Randy Udall
Director
Community Office for Resource Efficiency
P.O. Box 9707
Aspen, CO 81612

Dear Mr. Udall:

I would like to thank you and your colleague Auden Schendler for your thoughtful and incisive critique of the LEED Rating System. During my years as a USGBC Board Member, I had countless opportunities to speak about the wonderful changes LEED and the Council have brought to the built environment. As President and CEO of the Council, however, my job is to listen—to our members, to our customers, and perhaps most importantly, to our critics. It is feedback from individuals like you—people who are as committed to and passionate about green building as we are—that will help us continue to lead and inspire this incredible movement.

The huge positive impact of LEED and the Council on the built environment and the building industry is unquestioned. If we are to continue having an impact, though, we must ensure that LEED remains a flexible, affordable, and scientifically rigorous standard. Your article raises many valid concerns, and we agree with you that “We need green building to triumph...we need LEED...to accelerate that transition.” For these reasons, we are already hard at work addressing the issues you raise in your article. At my direction, David Gottfried, the founder of the USGBC and one of the nation’s foremost green building experts, is performing a comprehensive examination of the LEED Certification process. USGBC is committed to the continuous improvement and refinement of LEED, and we are excited about this opportunity to advance LEED and green building.

Your article argues that there are weaknesses in LEED and the Council, but it also offers us proof of just what makes the Council so strong. Chief among the Council’s core values is a commitment to consensus and collaboration, to bringing together the expertise of every sector of the building industry. Our openness and ability to respond to feedback from our many stakeholders has driven our success to date, and our willingness to act on that feedback will be the key to our success in the future. Listening to and learning from the thousands of intelligent and passionate people who are a part of this movement will enable us to continue leading this movement.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns about LEED, and for your positive suggestions for moving forward. Please do not hesitate to call on me to share additional concerns or ideas, and I look forward to working with you to achieve our shared vision of a healthy and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

S. Richard Fedrizzi
President, CEO and Founding Chairman
U.S. Green Building Council

cc: Mr. Auden Schendler

PRESIDENT, CEO & FOUNDING CHAIRMAN

S. Richard Fedrizzi

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