



Press Release

For Immediate Release

June 14, 2012

Contact: Marie Francis (202) 249-6514

Email: Marie_Francis@americanchemistry.com

CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS MOUNTING ABOUT USGBC'S FLAWED LEED PROGRAM, DESPITE DELAYED BALLOTING

Dooley Recognizes Decision to Delay LEED Balloting But Calls for Immediate Removal of Arbitrary Chemistry Restrictions and Process Reform

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 14, 2012) – The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced last week that it will delay the balloting of LEED 2012—now called LEED v4—until June 2013. American Chemistry Council (ACC) President and CEO Cal Dooley is applauding the organization's decision to halt the flawed process. Dooley notes, however, that delay alone will not resolve the significant problems in the proposed draft and he is calling on USGBC to comprehensively change its process and respond to Congressional concerns, including those expressed by key senators in a [letter to the U.S. General Services Administration](#) (GSA).

"I'm pleased that USGBC is acknowledging the many concerns from Members of Congress, governors, state legislators and other stakeholders about the considerable problems with the current draft of LEED. Postponing the balloting is a good first step to rectifying these problems, as it provides time for USGBC to improve LEED v4. However, the necessary improvement will only be made if USGBC embraces a true consensus process. So understandably, I am dismayed by comments USGBC already made that it intends to steadfastly retain ill-conceived measures to force builders and architects away from proven building products," said Dooley.

"ACC and its members have considerable technical and practical expertise, and we are prepared to engage constructively to help USGBC develop science- and consensus-based performance standards that will advance the energy efficiency and sustainability of buildings. However, as long as USGBC pushes for provisions designed to restrict certain chemistry materials, including those used in products that enhance energy efficiency, water conservation and building safety, I and others will continue to call for the removal of these arbitrary and counterproductive measures. In the interest of energy efficiency and good building science, I hope USGBC opens up the process to truly consider the expertise of key stakeholders, addresses the ongoing concerns reiterated today by a bipartisan group of U.S. senators, and discards its punitive approach that limits building and construction products and hurts American manufacturing," Dooley concluded.

The [letter](#) to GSA was signed by a bipartisan group of 18 senators and was led by Louisiana Senators Mary Landrieu (D) and David Vitter (R). Chief among the senators' concerns were the proposed credits to avoid or disclose certain chemical products, and they asked GSA to discontinue the use of LEED if those measures are not removed.



“While I have been and remain a strong supporter of the LEED standard’s goal to increase building efficiency, I do not believe that the LEED standard is an appropriate way to regulate chemicals used in energy-efficient buildings. I led the letter to GSA because I believe that the LEED standard should remain focused on increasing efficiency,” said Landrieu.

“The proposed LEED 2012 rating system could significantly undermine the goal of improving energy efficiency, and ultimately could undermine our economy. The U.S. Green Building Council really needs to reconsider their policies in determining what makes both economic and environmental sense,” said Vitter.

#

www.americanchemistry.com/newsroom

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care[®], common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$720 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

