



The Secretary of Energy

Washington, D.C. 20585

August 22, 2008

Dear Building Industry Leaders:

On behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE), I invite you to become a full participant in a national effort to make our buildings more energy efficient. More than 75 percent of the Nation's five million commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings were built prior to the introduction of many groundbreaking energy efficient technologies currently available today. These buildings annually consume nearly 900 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, at a cost exceeding \$115 billion each year. While cost-effective lighting technologies are available now to cut energy costs by up to 50 percent, only 25 percent of the buildings have been upgraded.

After passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, I challenged the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) to commit to a national building energy efficiency campaign. As you know, NEMA and its over 400 member companies have long been pioneers in the development of new energy efficient products and systems, which control and reduce electricity consumption.

NEMA has responded with enthusiasm, resources, and dedication by launching a National Energy Conservation Campaign. The benefits to be gained from its initiative are described in detail at its website, www.NEMAsavesenergy.org. In addition to the proven financial benefits of energy efficient products, the Commercial Building Tax Deductions enacted in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provide a unique opportunity to make our buildings more energy efficient. These tax deductions provide financial incentives up to \$0.60 per square foot for reducing new and existing building lighting energy use by 25 to 50 percent. Additional deductions of up to \$1.20 per square foot are available for achieving energy savings due to improvements to heating, air-conditioning, hot water, and building envelope systems.

I urge you to take advantage of these incentives and challenge you to commit to making the Nation's buildings more energy efficient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel W. Bodman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Samuel W. Bodman

