

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 492

Supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 2, 2009

Mr. CARNAHAN (for himself and Mrs. BIGGERT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance
Building Week.

Whereas the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus Coalition has declared the week of June 15 through June 19, 2009, as “High-Performance Building Week”;

Whereas the House of Representatives has recognized the importance of high-performance buildings through the inclusion of a definition of high-performance buildings in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

Whereas our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings consume 40 percent of the primary energy and 70 percent of the electricity in the United States annually;

Whereas buildings consume about 12 percent of the potable water in this country;

Whereas the construction of buildings and their related infrastructure consume approximately 60 percent of all raw materials used in the United States economy;

Whereas buildings account for 39 percent of United States carbon dioxide emissions a year approximately equaling the combined carbon emissions of Japan, France, and the United Kingdom;

Whereas Americans spend about 90 percent of their time indoors;

Whereas poor indoor environmental quality is detrimental to the health of all Americans, especially our children and elderly;

Whereas high-performance buildings promote higher student achievement by providing better lighting, a more comfortable indoor environment, and improved ventilation and indoor air quality;

Whereas high-performance residential and commercial building design and construction should effectively guard against natural and human caused events and disasters, including fire, water, wind, noise, crime, and terrorism;

Whereas high-performance buildings, which address human, environmental, economic, and total societal impact, result from the application of the highest level of design, construction, operation, and maintenance principles—a paradigm change for the built environment; and

Whereas the United States should continue to improve the features of new buildings, and adapt and maintain existing buildings, to changing balances in our needs and responsibilities for health, safety, energy efficiency, and usability by all segments of society: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) supports the goals and ideals of High-Per-
2 formance Building Week;

3 (2) recognizes and reaffirms our Nation's com-
4 mitment to High-Performance Buildings by pro-
5 moting awareness about their benefits and by pro-
6 moting new education programs, supporting re-
7 search, and expanding access to information;

8 (3) recognizes the unique role that the Depart-
9 ment of Energy plays through the Office of Energy
10 Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Building Tech-
11 nologies Program, which works closely with the
12 building industry and manufacturers to conduct re-
13 search and development on technologies and prac-
14 tices for building energy efficiency;

15 (4) recognizes the important role that the Na-
16 tional Institute of Standards and Technology plays
17 in developing the measurement science needed to de-
18 velop, test, integrate, and demonstrate the new
19 building technologies; and

20 (5) encourages further research and develop-
21 ment of high-performance building standards, re-
22 search, and development.

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