

Minister
of Natural Resources Canada



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles Canada

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

JUL 25 1996

Mr. Jerry Roehr
President
Canadian Home Builders' Association
150 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5J4

Dear Mr. Roehr:

Thank you for your facsimile of May 28, 1996, in which you express your views on building codes and voluntary measures to help improve energy efficiency in the housing sector.

The document to which you refer, *Energy Efficiency Trends in Canada*, describes the changes that have occurred over the past ten years in terms of energy efficiency improvements. Using an internationally recognized approach, it isolates changes in energy efficiency from other factors affecting energy use, such as increases in the number of households. Several organizations have told us that they found the report useful and appreciate the Government producing such analysis.

In explaining historical changes in energy efficiency, the document does refer to developments with respect to building codes. However, it did not state, nor did it intend to imply, that all of the improvements in building energy efficiency during the period under examination were due to changes in the provincial building codes. We are well aware that voluntary actions by builders played an important role in the improvement of housing energy efficiency that occurred during this period.

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is preparing a second document that will be released soon. It will look at indicators of progress relating to NRCan's efficiency and alternative energy program. This document will report on all of NRCan's regulatory, voluntary and science and technology initiatives in this area, including the R-2000 Home Program and the Home Energy Retrofit Initiative.

Canada

In addition, NRCan is currently reviewing its residential initiatives with a view to creating a more integrated residential strategy. The objective is to better integrate NRCan's promotion of voluntary efficiency improvements in new and existing housing with associated regulatory and research and development activities. Once internal discussions are complete, NRCan will consult with industry stakeholders such as the Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) to ensure that the integrated residential strategy fulfils mutual objectives.

I assure you that NRCan has not diverted any resources from the R-2000 Program to fund the development of the model National Energy Code and to support provincial implementation activities. You may be interested in knowing that several environmental groups have suggested that we have done the opposite. Nonetheless, these are both important components of our energy efficiency and alternative energy program.

It would be more appropriate to consider meeting with you to hear CHBA's views on this topic after you and your colleagues have had the opportunity to participate in the development of NRCan's integrated residential strategy.

Again, thank you for writing to convey your views on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "A. Anne McLellan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A. Anne McLellan