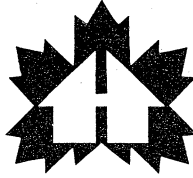


Canadian
Home Builders'
Association



Association
canadienne
des constructeurs
d'habitations

April 4, 2005

The Honourable John Efford
Minister of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Canada
Minister's Office
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor, Room c7-1
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

Dear Minister:

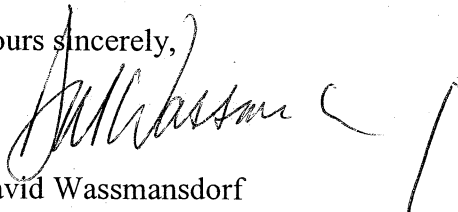
In January, my predecessor, Mary Lawson, wrote to you about the new spirit of cooperation between our industry and NRCan aimed at improving residential energy efficiency through the R-2000 Program. We were pleased to receive your kind response shortly thereafter.

At a recent meeting of the National R-2000 Builders Committee, NRCan representatives confirmed the federal government's commitment to the Program. They observed that R-2000 is the indispensable resource base for all other energy-efficient housing initiatives and that R-2000 builders are recognizably the leaders in this field. R-2000 has been the "driver" that has enabled the housing industry to achieve so much and to deliver real benefits and value to consumers. It also sets the energy efficiency target to which all other housing aspires.

It is within this context that CHBA is extremely concerned that funding levels have not been maintained for R-2000 in the coming year. In fact, they have been substantially reduced. This appears incongruous, given the importance of the R-2000 Program to furthering energy-efficiency. After many years on 'life-support', R-2000 saw its health restored with improved funding to provincial delivery agents in the last few years. Combined with new streamlined reporting requirements, holding the course on funding will sustain the capacity necessary to realize the Program's potential.

As it is important to build on the momentum that has been created by the renewed partnership with NRCan, I would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,


David Wassmansdorf
President