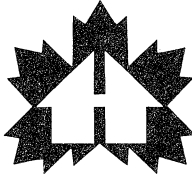


**Canadian**  
Home Builders'  
Association



Association  
**canadienne**  
des constructeurs  
d'habitations

January 10, 2005

The Honourable John Efford  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Canada  
Ministers Office  
580 Booth Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room: C7-1  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

Dear Minister:

Last week, the Office of Energy Efficiency and the Chair of the National R-2000 Builders Committee jointly announced important changes to the R-2000 program. These changes will make R-2000 more competitive while maintaining it as the premier whole-house quality assurance system for energy-efficient housing. On behalf of the Canadian Home Builders' Association, I want you to know how much we appreciate the actions being taken by your Department to support R-2000 builders across Canada.

Since 1982, the CHBA and Natural Resources Canada have worked together to transform the way in which houses are built by using the R-2000 Standard. Not only has it profoundly influenced Canadian housing, it has helped to make us a world leader in cold-climate technology. NRCan and CHBA have accomplished a great deal by working together in bringing this about.

The Canadian Home Builders' Association remains committed to improving the environmental performance of housing through voluntary, market-driven initiatives. The R-2000 Program is the key reason why housing has been the most successful industry sector in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Our industry also welcomes the recent introduction of new mortgage insurance products for R-2000 houses. These were developed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in consultation with the Office of Energy Efficiency. Measures such as these are what the CHBA has been seeking to help builders to sell energy efficiency to their customers.

These are promising developments that deserve recognition and encouragement. We look forward to achieving even more progress with your Department.

Sincerely,

Mary Lawson  
President