

Minister
of Natural Resources Canada



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles Canada

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

MAY 14 2005

Mr. David Wassmansdorf
President
Canadian Home Builders' Association
150 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 500
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J4

Dear Mr. Wassmansdorf:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 17, 2005, bringing to my attention your Six-Point Action Plan for the Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) in which you demonstrate your organization's goals for the coming years. I agree when you say that the home building industry is a key contributor to Canada's social and economic progress, and I congratulate you on your holistic vision in this initiative.

With regard to the home building industry, I am pleased to hear from my departmental officials of the renewed partnership with the CHBA regarding the R-2000 Standard. I am convinced that with the support of the CHBA and its members, we will meet the Government of Canada's target of having all new homes built to the R-2000 Standard or EnerGuide for New Houses 80-point level of energy efficiency by 2010.

In addition, my department has participated in a number of projects with industry champions as they use innovative new methods within their businesses. An excellent example is the Okotoks Project in Alberta, where Sterling Homes is building a 42-unit development. These homes will be built to the R-2000 Standard and will include a district solar thermal storage heating system. Several programs within my department are actively working on this project in support of industry innovation, including the Office of Energy Efficiency, responsible for managing the R-2000 Standard, and the Buildings Group from the CANMET Energy Technology Centre.

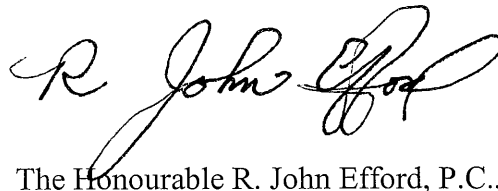
Natural Resources Canada looks forward to continuing working with the CHBA in our renewed partnership to reduce the impact of new houses on the environment, and to promote innovation within the renovation and new home building industries. These efforts are certainly within the scope and intent of your forward-looking Action Plan.

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In addition to the interest of my department in energy efficiency and sustainable communities, there are overarching issues in your plan that fall under the responsibility of other federal departments. I have taken the liberty of providing copies of your correspondence and this letter to my colleagues, for their consideration.

Again, thank you for writing and bringing the CHBA's Six-Point Action Plan to my attention. I wish you every success in realizing your goals, and congratulations on your vision for your industry and its role in building Canada's future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. John Efford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "E".

The Honourable R. John Efford, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Jean-C. Lapierre, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

The Honourable Ralph E. Goodale, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance

The Honourable Joseph Volpe, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

The Honourable Joseph Frank Fontana, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Labour and Housing

The Honourable Belinda Stronach, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development

The Honourable John Ferguson Godfrey, P.C., M.P.
Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities)