

Minister
of Natural Resources Canada



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles Canada

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

Ms. Mary Lawson
President
Canadian Home Builders' Association
150 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 500
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J4

Dear Ms. Lawson:

Thank you for your letter of January 10, 2005, regarding the renewed spirit of collaboration between Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency and the Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA). I apologize for the delay in this response.

My department is committed to working with the home building industry in our efforts to provide Canadians with energy-efficient and environmentally appropriate housing.

When the CHBA and this department began to work together on the R-2000 program in the 1980s, those involved had high hopes for the transformation of how we build houses in this country. Indeed, looking back, we can now say that the energy performance of houses has improved substantially since that time, i.e. at least 20 percent, and this is due in large part to the influence of the R-2000 program. Our renewed efforts to make R-2000 more accessible to builders — and as a result more widely adopted — has come at a crucial time.

In the October 2003 *Climate Change Plan for Canada*, the Government of Canada set a goal of having all houses built to the energy performance level of the R-2000 Standard or EnerGuide for New Houses (80 points) by 2010. It is my understanding that the average EnerGuide for Houses rating of a new house is approximately 73 points. We can achieve our climate change goal only by enhanced collaboration with industry. I therefore look to the CHBA as an industry leader to encourage all its members to take up the R-2000 challenge and help Canada reach this ambitious target.

Canada

There is no downside to meeting this challenge. We all know that energy prices do not tend to decrease over time and that home buyers are looking for good value as well as a comfortable home for their families. An R-2000 home also produces at least 2.4 fewer tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions compared to a conventional new house, now that is a real head start towards helping Canadians meet the One-Tonne Challenge.

Again, thank you for writing. I appreciate the CHBA's support in helping Canada meet its climate change goals for new housing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. John Efford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

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