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**Canadian
Home Builders'
Association**



**Association canadienne
des constructeurs
d'habitations**

March 6, 2008

The Honourable Gary Lunn
Minister
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor, Room C7-1
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

Dear Minister Lunn:

I am writing concerning a potential collaboration between Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) to assist homeowners in improving the energy performance of Canada's existing residential housing stock.

Your department, through its support for the ecoENERGY Residential Energy Assessment Initiative, has compiled extensive records from home evaluations carried out by NRCan-licensed technicians. My understanding is that this data includes approximately 400,000 case files based on the EnerGuide Rating System (ERS) protocol.

This database represents a valuable source of information about the current energy performance of Canadian housing, as well as the impact of various retrofit measures on house performance. Significantly, given the number of houses included in the database, it would likely support detailed analysis of housing based on key variables such as structure type, period of construction and region.

The CHBA, through the work of its Canadian Renovators' Council, supports the efforts of professional renovation contractors in providing homeowners with sound advice on energy efficiency, including the value of obtaining a home energy assessment.

The CHBA believes that your department's database of ERS records could be analyzed to develop technical information that would assist professional renovators in encouraging homeowners to incorporate energy retrofit measures in their renovation plans. As professional renovators serve as a prime source of homeowner information and guidance, providing them with such data would both benefit consumers and address your government's ecoENERGY goals.

The significant benefit of this initiative will be valuable information for renovators, derived from the data. To this end, it would be essential that CHBA staff consult with NRCan staff to determine how best to proceed.

I look forward to discussing this worthwhile collaboration with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Richard Lind
President