

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

FEB - 5 2009

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

Dear Mr. Hrynkow:

Thank you for your letters of December 8, 2008, regarding the R-2000 Standard and the EnerGuide Rating Service (ERS). I was pleased to learn of the close working relationship that my department shares with the Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) in regard to the R-2000 Standard.

As you know, the ERS was designed to be a tool that would provide Canadians with solid information on actions that could be taken to retrofit existing homes or in the design of new homes to make them more energy-efficient. It has indeed been a world-class energy rating methodology applied broadly in the Canadian marketplace, to both existing and new housing.

With increasing reliance on the ERS for a variety of uses by governments and organizations across the country, it is time to develop the next generation of ERS to meet the rising expectations regarding the energy efficiency of Canadian housing. The Housing Division of Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency is currently taking active measures to lead this enterprise. I understand that they have been in direct contact with CHBA officials and other stakeholders on this matter, and your recommendations have been appreciated and well-received.

My officials have advised me of the need for the ERS development process to be open and transparent, and of their resultant plans to lead a broad consultative process, in which CHBA officials and other stakeholders can be involved. This process will not only look at all aspects of the system, including its technical aspects, but also administration, procedural and other elements to ensure that the next generation of ERS is the best it can be. I appreciate your recommendations, offer of assistance and general support towards that end.

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I look forward to our continued collaboration in the update of the R-2000 Standard and the development of the next generation of the ERS. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and members of your organization. My assistant will contact your office to arrange a mutually convenient time for us to meet.

Again, thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Raitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'R'.

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, P.C., M.P.