



Shaping Tomorrow's  
Built Environment Today

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**Thomas H. Phoenix, P. E., FASHRAE**  
President

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June 26, 2015

Senator Harry Brown, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Senator Kathy Harrington, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Senator Brent Jackson, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Representative Nelson Dollar, Senior  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Representative Linda Johnson, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Representative Donny Lambeth, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Representative Chuck McGrady, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Senators Brown, Harrington, Jackson and Representatives Dollar, Johnson, Lambeth and McGrady,

I am writing in opposition to language included in the Senate draft of the state budget, as both President of ASHRAE and as a citizen of North Carolina. The language is in the "Capital Improvement Reform" section of the Senate version of the budget bill and states on page 459: *"(c)(9)The agency agrees not to spend any of the funds allocated to it from the Capital Improvement Planning Fund to seek LEED Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council."* This language, if enacted as part of the final

North Carolina State Budget, could add an unnecessary burden by barring the use of the widely-accepted US Green Building Council (USGBC) market tool, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), for delivering better buildings.

ASHRAE believes it is important that government, business and industry have open access to multiple rating systems and there are several available for use (e.g.: [LEED](#), [Green Globes](#), [Energy Star](#), [Building Energy Quotient](#)). The use of the LEED Green Building Rating System has created a fast-growing, job-creating industry. For instance, more than 300 North Carolina-based companies and hundreds more who drive employment there position LEED as central to their business. Some of these organizations include Bank of America, Caterpillar, Wells Fargo, Nucor, Trane, Choate Construction, Ingersoll Rand, CBRE, and NASCAR. Additionally, to date, over 5,900 professionals and higher education students in North Carolina carry a LEED professional credential. If enacted, this prohibition could result in diminished opportunities for blossoming industries in building design, energy services, materials manufacturing, construction and other sectors.

On behalf of ASHRAE, I would ask the North Carolina General Assembly to preserve the use of LEED and other building rating systems as tools to increase energy efficiency in public and private buildings. LEED incorporates and references many standards that have been developed through a consensus-based process, providing a choice for consumers and stakeholders.

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 50,000 members worldwide focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today. ASHRAE's corporate headquarters, located in Atlanta, Georgia, holds a LEED Platinum Certification. For more information, go to [www.ashrae.org](http://www.ashrae.org).

Sincerely yours,



Thomas H. Phoenix  
President

cc: Thomas Watson, Chair - Advocacy Committee – ASHRAE  
Elbert G. Phillips, Chair - Grassroots Government Activities Committee – ASHRAE  
Jeff Littleton, Executive Vice President – ASHRAE  
Jim Scarborough, Manager - Grassroots Government Affairs – ASHRAE  
Mark Ames, Senior Manager – Federal Government Affairs – ASHRAE