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December 16, 2014

Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

To the Honorable Nikki Haley,

Congratulations on your re-election as Governor of South Carolina. After a campaign season filled with long days and late nights, I'm sure you're happy to have the elections behind you and are eager to get back to work in Columbia. As you continue thinking about the ways to drive progress and prosperity in South Carolina, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous opportunity green building presents our nation, both in environmental and economic terms.

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system is largely responsible for the explosive growth of the green building sector, which supports or creates 7.9 billion jobs across all 50 states and contributes \$554 billion to the U.S. economy annually. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and it's that leadership that has directly contributed to scores of innovative building technologies in the design, manufacturing and construction process, while bringing new, healthier building materials to market.

LEED-certified buildings cost less to operate – a recent independent study found that federal buildings that achieved LEED certification reduced their energy use by 25 percent when compared to the national average. Businesses and organizations across the country also use LEED to increase the efficiency of their buildings, freeing up valuable resources that can be used to create new jobs, attract and retain top talent, expand operations and invest in emerging technologies.

What's more, greater building efficiency can meet 85 percent of future demand for energy in the United States, reducing our dependence on foreign fuels and energy sources that pollute our environment, while promoting renewable, clean energy as the superior alternative. In fact, a



commitment to green building has the potential to generate an additional 2.5 million clean energy jobs.

Governors across the country, and on both sides of the aisle, are recognizing the value in green building for their communities. In Michigan, Governor Rick Snyder (R) has encouraged state agencies to pursue LEED certification for their buildings, while Governor Mark Dayton (D) continues to encourage updates to Minnesota's sustainable green building standards. When it comes to schools, both Governor John Hickenlooper (D) of Colorado and Governor Bill Haslam (R) of Tennessee have emphasized the need for these spaces to be healthy and high-performing places where young minds flourish. In Nevada, Governor Brian Sandoval (R) is even encouraging LEED commercial construction through a tax incentive. In every case, the work of these great leaders is having a profoundly beneficial impact on their constituents and their communities.

I hope you will consider the many ways a more energy-efficient, healthy and sustainable built environment can positively impact the lives of those living and working in the great state of South Carolina. If you are ever in need of more information or resources regarding green building and LEED please do not hesitate to reach out to us at the U.S. Green Building Council. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Fedrizzi", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rick Fedrizzi  
CEO & Founding Chairman  
U.S. Green Building Council