

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1259

To increase the use and research of sustainable building design technology,  
and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GILCREST, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DICKS, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. INSLEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To increase the use and research of sustainable building  
design technology, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “High-Performance  
5 Buildings Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN HOUS-**  
2 **ING STRATEGY.**

3 Section 105(b) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National  
4 Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12705(b)) is  
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
7 (19);

8 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
9 graph (20) and inserting “; and”;

10 (3) and by inserting after paragraph (20) the  
11 following:

12 “(21) describe the jurisdiction’s strategies to  
13 encourage sustainable development for affordable  
14 housing, as measured by—

15 “(A) greater energy efficiency;

16 “(B) increased conservation and reuse of  
17 resources;

18 “(C) more effective use of existing infra-  
19 structure;

20 “(D) use of building materials and meth-  
21 ods that are healthier for residents of the hous-  
22 ing; and

23 “(E) such other criteria as the Secretary  
24 determines are in accordance with the purposes  
25 of this paragraph.”.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM TO INCREASE SUSTAINABLE LOW-**  
2 **INCOME COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CAPAC-**  
3 **ITY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and  
5 Urban Development may make grants to nonprofit organi-  
6 zations to use for any of the following purposes:

7 (1) Training, educating, supporting, or advising  
8 an eligible community development organization in  
9 improving energy efficiency, resource conservation  
10 and reuse, and effective use of existing infrastruc-  
11 ture in affordable housing and economic develop-  
12 ment activities in low-income communities.

13 (2) Providing loans, grants, or predevelopment  
14 assistance to eligible community development organi-  
15 zations to carry out energy efficiency improvements,  
16 resource conservation and reuse, and effective use of  
17 existing infrastructure in affordable housing and  
18 economic development activities in low-income com-  
19 munities.

20 (3) Such other purposes as the Secretary deter-  
21 mines are in accordance with the purposes of this  
22 subsection.

23 (b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible for  
24 a grant under this section, a nonprofit organization shall  
25 prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at

1 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
2 tion as the Secretary may require.

3 (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—A grant made under  
4 this section may not exceed the amount that the nonprofit  
5 organization receiving the grant certifies, to the Secretary,  
6 will be provided (in cash or in kind) from non-govern-  
7 mental sources to carry out the purposes for which the  
8 grant is made.

9 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “nonprofit organization” has the  
11 meaning given such term in section 104 of the Cran-  
12 ston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42  
13 U.S.C. 12704).

14 (2) The term “eligible community development  
15 organization” means—

16 (A) a unit of general local government (as  
17 defined in section 104 of the Cranston-Gonzalez  
18 National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C.  
19 12704));

20 (B) a community housing development or-  
21 ganization (as defined in section 104 of the  
22 Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Hous-  
23 ing Act (42 U.S.C. 12704)); or

1 (C) a tribal government (as defined in sec-  
2 tion 421 of the Congressional Budget Act of  
3 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658)).

4 (3) The term “low-income community” means a  
5 census tract in which 50 percent or more of the  
6 households have an income which is less than 80  
7 percent of the greater of—

8 (A) the area median gross income for such  
9 year for the area in which such census tract is  
10 located; or

11 (B) the median gross income for such year  
12 for the State in which such census tract is lo-  
13 cated.

14 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
16 out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008  
17 through 2012.

18 **SEC. 4. SUSTAINABLE BUILDING INSTITUTE.**

19 The National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42  
20 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
21 the following:

22 **“SEC. 17. SUSTAINABLE BUILDING INSTITUTE.**

23 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
24 the Foundation a Sustainable Building Institute (herein-  
25 after in this section referred to as the ‘Institute’).

1 “(b) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.—

2 “(1) UNDERTAKING AND SUPPORTING RE-  
3 SEARCH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—The Institute  
4 shall undertake, or support through providing  
5 grants, loans, or other forms of assistance—

6 “(A) research regarding the relationships  
7 among indoor environmental quality, human  
8 health, and human productivity; and

9 “(B) research, development, and commer-  
10 cial application of energy efficiency and renew-  
11 able energy technologies for buildings, includ-  
12 ing—

13 “(i) water heating systems and light-  
14 ing systems;

15 “(ii) building insulation technology;

16 “(iii) technology and methods for im-  
17 proving the cost effectiveness of fuel cells;  
18 and

19 “(iv) technology and methods for re-  
20 ducing the installation costs of solar photo-  
21 voltaic energy systems.

22 “(2) CONSULTATION TO AVOID DUPLICATION.—

23 The Institute shall consult with other Federal agen-

1       cies to avoid duplication of activities authorized  
2       under this subsection.”.

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