

Join the High Performance Building Caucus

Sending Office: Honorable Peter Welch
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Members in the 116th: Blumenauer, Boyle, Cartwright, Castor, Connolly, Harder, Doyle, Fudge, Suozzi, Kirkpatrick, Kuster, Langevin, Lipinski, Loeb sack, Lofgren, Matsui, Jayapal, McKinley, Norton, Perlmutter, Price, Welch, Hudson, Carson, Neguse, Stivers

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join the bipartisan High Performance Building Caucus. It is hard to overstate importance of our built environment; we spend more than 90 percent of our time indoors, and high performing buildings promote public health, address climate change, mitigate communities against natural hazards, and keep housing affordable.

Indoor pollution [is estimated](#) to cause thousands of cancer deaths and hundreds of thousands of respiratory health problems each year. The spread of COVID-19 [can also occur](#) via airborne particles in indoor environments, even beyond the range encouraged by social distancing recommendations. High performing buildings have better ventilation and indoor air quality, which [benefits](#) occupant health.

Buildings are a critical part of any solution to address climate change, given building energy use [accounts](#) for about 32 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Progressing to zero-energy buildings, through increased energy and water efficiency coupled with onsite renewable generation and combined heat and power, is critical to staving off the worst impacts of climate change.

Buildings constructed to current standards also protect occupants from natural hazards, many of which are expected to [increase](#) in frequency and severity in the future. FEMA found that if all new building in America were built to the modern

codes that high performance buildings use, our country would save [more than \\$600 billion](#) in avoided losses from floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Energy efficient buildings also [help occupants](#) shelter in place safely for longer during power outages associated with extreme weather events.

High performing buildings are also critical to keeping housing affordable. Better built buildings [minimize](#) repair and displacement costs and economic impacts following natural disasters, [reduce](#) insurance premiums, and cut energy and water utility bills. For example, the Department of Energy, estimates that robust energy codes will [save](#) owners and occupants \$126 billion by 2040.

The High Performance Buildings Caucus supports legislation and policies that protect life and property, promote innovative building technologies, increase energy and water efficiency in the built-environment, advance sustainable and resilient communities, and encourage the development of private sector standards, codes, and guidelines that address these important considerations. We hope you will consider joining our ranks.

If you would like to join the Caucus, please contact Alex Piper (alex.piper@mail.house.gov) with Representative Welch or Jake Tyner (jake.tyner@mail.house.gov) with Representative McKinley.

Sincerely,

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley
Member of Congress