Growing Coalition in Opposition to House Bill 4561

September 14, 2011

Dear Lawmakers,

Energy bills are the second-highest cost of home ownership, next to the mortgage. Michigan families deserve energy-efficient homes that help them stay in those homes by reducing their cost of ownership. Study after study shows that families can save thousands of dollars in energy costs during the years they live in an energy-efficient residence. The savings continue for each family that purchases the home. Insurance premiums are also lower for energy-efficient homes.

For many years, Michigan has had a three-year cycle for updates to the state's building code. Again and again, Michigan's choice to update the energy efficiency portion of the code has led to homes made with advanced materials that save consumers energy and money. Taxpayers benefit, too, since the code also covers public structures: It helps avoid wasteful and costly energy losses in state government buildings.

Unfortunately, there is legislation before the House of Representatives, H.B. 4561, that would double the time between updates to Michigan's energy-efficient building code. Under the new, six-year cycle called for under the bill, Michigan's homes and buildings would fall behind in critical technology changes that enhance energy efficiency.

Advanced manufacturing is a key part of Michigan's economy, and continued innovation is vital to our economic future. Energy-efficient products, processes and technologies – some of them created by Michigan's chemistry industry – support jobs and help grow Michigan's economy. And for every job in Michigan's chemistry industry, five jobs are created outside the industry.

We urge you to support Michigan families, energy savings, and lower energy bills and oppose H.B. 4561.

Sincerely,

Michigan Chemistry Council

Dow Chemical
Midland

BASF
Wyandotte

American Chemistry Council

Huntsman
Auburn Hills

Arvron , Inc.
Grand Rapids

Guardian
Auburn Hills

Atlas Roofing Corp.
Byron Center

Sika Sarnafil