



## Consultative Council



**T**he Consultative Council assembles high-level building community representatives to make recommendations on behalf of the building community directly to the executive and legislative branches of government to improve our nation's buildings and infrastructure.

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Buildings and their related infrastructure are a critical national resource. They are the places where we live, work and play; where our children are educated; and where our injured are healed. The value of all U.S. construction alone represents more than 13 percent of the nation's GDP<sup>1</sup>. Include building-related product manufacturing, building operations and utilities, and that number becomes much larger. In 2008, the value of the nation's structures was estimated at over \$28 trillion<sup>2</sup>.

Despite the significant impact on the U.S. economy, there has been no forum to identify and discuss top-level issues impacting the entire building community. The Consultative Council provides a means to address such over-arching issues and a mechanism for bringing these issues (along with recommendations for action) to the President and Congress.

The Council convenes topical committees and holds hearings on key issues, resulting in the production of a consensus annual report of findings and recommendations. Additional findings and recommendations also are identified for examination by sub-groups from both within and outside the Institute.

Where appropriate, the Council, through the Institute, facilitates the implementation of the recommendations identified in the consensus report.

Representatives to the Council also have the added opportunity to network and exchange information with the executive leadership from key industry organizations along with other key decision makers.

### **Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 PL 93-383, 12 USC 1701j-2**

*The Institute shall establish, with the advice and assistance of the Academies-Research Council and other agencies and organizations which are knowledgeable in the field of building technology, a **Consultative Council**, membership in which shall be available to representatives of all appropriate private trade, professional, and labor organizations, private and public standards, code, and testing bodies, public regulatory agencies, and consumer groups, so as to insure a **direct line of communication between such groups and the Institute and a vehicle for representative hearings** on matters before the Institute.*

### Membership

Council membership is made up of leading organizations that represent the following sectors of the building community:

- Consumer and General Interest - Consumers, users, academia, media and public interest groups.
- Architects - Architects and related professionals in private practice.
- Engineers - Engineers and related professionals in private practice.
- Federal Government - Officials and representatives of federal government agencies.
- State and Local Government - Officials and representatives of state and local government, including code officials.
- Building Construction - Building construction contractors, subcontractors and utilities.
- Labor Organizations - Building trade unions.
- Housing - Builders, developers and housing producers.
- Building Materials and Products - Producers, manufacturers and distributors of materials and products (including software) used in the building process.
- Codes and Standards - Standards and model code developing organizations.
- Real Estate, Finance and Insurance - Owners, real estate, financial and insurance organizations.
- Research, Testing and Other Services - Research organizations, testing laboratories and other service organizations.

Interested organizations are invited to apply for membership by completing an Application for Membership.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Energy, 2009 Building Energy Data Book, Table 1.3.1, <http://buildingsdatabook.eren.doe.gov/>.

<sup>2</sup>Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Economic Accounts Fixed Asset Table 2.1, <http://www.bea.gov/national/FA2004/SelectTable.asp>.



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