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## The Real Estate Roundtable

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy  
and Natural Resources  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy  
U.S. Senate

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The Real Estate Roundtable strongly supports S. 2137, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness (ESIC) Act. The ESIC Act, co-sponsored by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), will be considered at the Subcommittee on Energy's legislative hearing this afternoon.

The U.S. real estate sector has made significant strides to improve the energy efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint of America's building infrastructure over the last decade. The ESIC Act will help drive further, cost-effective reductions in energy consumed by buildings and the occupants, tenants and visitors who live, work and play in them. S. 2137 will:

- Provide real estate stakeholders with opportunities to comment on code revisions offered by the Department of Energy (DOE) and thereby bring greater transparency to the currently opaque process by which federal code proposals are developed without formal opportunities for industry input;
- Import new economic and cost considerations into the process by which DOE proposes revisions to "model" building energy codes, that state and local bodies may ultimately adopt;
- Direct DOE to consider impacts on small businesses when developing its energy code submissions;
- Clarify standards for real estate appraisers and banks to consider energy efficiency capital investments when determining an asset's market value;
- Create a voluntary program that can lead to lower interest rates and greater qualifications for buyers seeking mortgages on new energy efficient homes; and

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- Direct the Energy Information Administration to coordinate and share information with the Environmental Protection Agency, to improve the integrity of nationwide data each agency separately collects regarding the energy used by U.S. commercial buildings.

The Roundtable has been a long-time supporter of the ESIC Act, and we request inclusion of this letter in the record for today's legislative hearing. For more information, please contact Duane Desiderio, The Roundtable's Senior Vice President and Counsel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. DeBoer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Jeffrey D. DeBoer  
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Rob Portman  
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Member of the Senate Subcommittee on Energy