

## Please send your letter to:

- Board of Directors  
US Green Building Council  
1015 18th Street, NW, Suite 508  
Washington, DC 20036
- [mr@committees.usgbc.org](mailto:mr@committees.usgbc.org)
- [leadsteering@committees.usgbc.org](mailto:leadsteering@committees.usgbc.org)
- [wood@usgbc.org](mailto:wood@usgbc.org)
- [info@dontbuysfi.com](mailto:info@dontbuysfi.com)

## Sample Letter:

[Date]

Board of Directors  
US Green Building Council  
1015 18th Street, NW, Suite 508  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear USGBC:

I urge you maintain the effectiveness and credibility of the USGBC's *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* (LEED) standards by ensuring that the LEED family of standards only provide credit for the use of wood products when those products originate from environmentally, socially, and economically well-managed forests.

Renewable materials standards must ask whether forest ecosystems are sustained—not just whether new trees are grown. Unfortunately, most wood is still produced via unacceptable practices that harm natural ecosystems, wildlife, and water quality. Logging can also increase greenhouse gas emissions, such as when old growth forests are cut down. But there is an alternative: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified forestry. The FSC is the only forestry system that meets LEED's goal of transforming building practices by recognizing the most environmentally responsible practices.

The LEED standards already recognize the FSC is the sole leader in credible certification and environmentally sound forestry. Non-FSC wood should only be given LEED credit if it is verified as originating from forests managed to standards that truly match all significant aspects of the FSC's rules for protection of the environment, indigenous people, and other communities, and is subject to FSC-comparable rules for chain-of-custody tracking and exclusion of wood from illegal logging and other controversial sources. The standards should also be governed by independent entities with balanced and open stakeholder memberships, and transparent procedures. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and other weak certification systems lack true balance and independence, certify environmentally destructive logging, and do not merit LEED recognition.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Organization/Business]

[Address]

[City, State, and Zip]