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February 5, 2009

The Honorable Michael Merrifield
200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB 09-1149

Dear Representative Merrifield:

As Chairman of the Colorado Association of Home Builders' Green Building Subcommittee, I'm pleased to offer you my thoughts on HB-1149.

The measure initially caused some concern among many in our industry primarily due to the fact that it creates a new mandate for builders at a time when many of us are experiencing difficult times of unprecedented proportion. Having said that, we have very much appreciated the collaborative process in which we have been included and feel that the majority of our issues have been addressed through the four amendments which we understand you will be offering during the committee hearing today. We particularly appreciate the cooperation of representatives from the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association.

Specifically, the amendments (1) recognize the significant economic detriment that would come for both homebuyers and homebuilders by providing individual flexibility with respect to construction timelines, (2) add solar thermal systems to the range of options available to consumers, (3) provide a third low cost option of a conduit or chase line for homebuyers that may not have the means to afford the cost of immediate installation, and (4) requires GEO to offer training to builders on solar photovoltaic and solar thermal installations.

This bill represents the culmination of numerous discussions between many interested parties and is a wonderful example of what happens when stakeholders come together for the purpose of achieving common sense workable solutions. Thank you very much for your leadership on this important issue.

Very truly yours,

SHEA HOMES


Steve Ormiston
Vice President Planning

9135 Ridgeline Blvd., Suite 100
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129-2392

303.791.8180 T
303.791.8558 F

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