

January 13, 2014

Honorable Members of the City Council of the City of Madison
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A (City-County Building)
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Benchmarking Legislation

To the Honorable Members of the City Council of the City of Madison:

Transwestern and Transwestern Sustainability Services of Wisconsin LLC are writing to voice our support for the adoption of the Building Benchmarking Ordinance Creating Section 29.047 of the Madison General Ordinances requiring energy benchmarking for certain types of buildings in the City of Madison. This Ordinance will establish an energy benchmarking and reporting program for buildings larger than 15,000 square feet in the City of Madison.

Transwestern employs approximately 1,900 team members nationwide, including a number of design professionals primarily in the architectural and engineering professions, as well as the commercial real estate market and our Milwaukee sustainability office. We focus on the healthcare and commercial building markets and are proud to have contributed our design skills across the greater metropolitan area. We have a longstanding commitment to environmental stewardship and have worked with the cities of Chicago, New York, Minneapolis and Washington DC to develop a number of sustainability focused programs including LEED Online, Energy Star, Good,Better...Best and benchmarking and disclosure ordinances.

This Ordinance is based on a simple principal that robust and transparent energy consumption information is a powerful market based driver for long term energy improvements in the city. This program will:

- Lead to economic development and job creation surrounding energy assessments, benchmarking and improvements;
- Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings;
- Reduce energy costs for businesses and building operations; and
- Provide energy information to building owners, tenants driving a marketplace focus on continuous improvement.

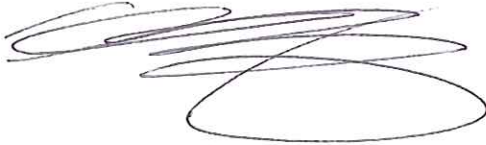
Madison has an extraordinarily rich history of environmental innovation for which it is justly proud. The adoption of this ordinance will continue this tradition in an area that is of crucial importance to the 21st century - energy efficiency. Furthermore, Madison will join other leading U.S. cities that have established similar policies. These cities include Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Austin, and Washington DC.

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We are pleased to see that professional engineers and registered architects are options for the licensed professionals who can provide compliance certification. In addition to the relevance to engineering profession, this will help drive job creation.

Transwestern has a long term goal of being a regenerative practice. We are proud to support this program and see it as another step toward a healthy, sustainable and resilient city. Please let us know if we can offer any help as the program is implemented in the coming years.

Sincerely,



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