



**For Immediate Release**

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## **The Virginia Small Business Partnership Fights to Protect Small Business Owners from onerous new building regulations**

**Fairfax, VA, January 3, 2011** – The Virginia Small Business Partnership (VASBP) recently submitted comments to the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) Public Version 2.0. The VASBP asked the IgCC to consider a building size exemption of structures 10,000 Square Feet and less.

Currently, the IgCC draft requires compliance for all construction regardless of building size. Requiring compliance to IgCC places an unequal and much higher burden on small buildings and therefore small business owners. The single greatest source of that burden is the documentation required for IgCC compliance, and that generally only pays for itself in large and/or complex structures. Little data exists to determine the return on investment on commissioning in addition to the metering/monitoring as required in the IgCC.

M. David Skiles, President of the Virginia Small Business Partnership stated, “While VASBP fully supports efforts to increase construction sustainability and encourage green building, the IgCC simply goes too far in not exempting smaller buildings.” “Additionally, there is concern about the ability for buildings with a small footprint to practically be able to meet various green programs as outlined in IgCC draft,” he continued.

In September 2010, the Small Business Administration released a report entitled “The Impact of Regulatory Costs of Small Firms”. The report defined small firms as those companies employing fewer than 20 employees. The results of the report showed that the annual cost of federal regulations increased to more than \$1.75 trillion and the portion of regulatory costs that initially falls on businesses was \$8,086 per employee in 2008.

Similar to the IgCC requirements, many of the costs associated with compliance are “fixed costs” meaning a firm with few employees has similar expenses as a firm with many employees. By requiring fixed compliance costs to all buildings, the IgCC is in fact putting small business at a competitive disadvantage at a time when the economy can ill-afford it.

The Virginia Small Business Partnership (VASBP) was formed in 2010 to serve as an advocacy body for the Virginia Small Business community. As part of its effort to protect small businesses from the aggressive overreach of regulations, the VASBP decided to become involved in the International Green Construction Code’s development.

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