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BAILOUT BILL INCLUDES OTHER BENEFITS

The enactment of economic stabilization legislation also brought with it benefits for many segments of the construction industry. The Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction will now be available to building owners and developers until December 31, 2013. The extension of this critical tax incentive for green commercial buildings was set to expire at the end of 2008. The new law also extends a number of other tax incentives for renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency. The trickle-down effect will reach contractors, subcontractors, manufacturers and small businesses.

Over the course of the year, both the House and Senate approved extensions of this deduction numerous times. However, procedural hurdles and policy disputes over how to pay for the deduction prevented Congress from reaching a mutual agreement and producing a final bill ready for the President's signature. Congressional leadership realized last week that it was now or never to extend these expiring tax incentives. If Congress had not included the incentives in the bailout Bill, it would have had detrimental effects on not only green commercial construction, but also on energy efficiency nationwide.

It is likely that Congress will not reconvene until after the November elections, and then any sessions will be lame-duck, and no substantial action should be expected. A major infrastructure bill also is pending which includes \$3 billion dollars for school modernization and renovation. We encourage you to contact your Representatives and Senators to support this legislation.