

August 29, 2019

Chris Austin
Director of Rental Investment
North Carolina Housing Finance Agency
3508 Bush Street
Raleigh, NC 27609

Subject: 2020 NC Draft Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) and potential inclusion of the ICC/ASHRAE 700-2015 National Green Building Standard

Dear Mr. Austin,

I write this letter requesting the NCHFA include an option to earn points in the 2020 North Carolina Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) for attaining a green building certification. Green certification programs like the *ICC/ASHRAE 700 National Green Building Standard™* (NGBS) are currently recognized in many state QAPs, and an increasing number of State Housing Finance Agencies have been adding NGBS green certification to their QAPs to help promote green affordable housing. In these plans, NGBS is recognized as on-par with comparable programs, such as LEED and Enterprise Green Communities, which would also be welcome as options in the QAP.

Providing builders with options and opportunities to demonstrate successful green building practices in the homes we build can only help further sustainability within affordable housing throughout the state. Also, the straight-forward and low-cost nature of the NGBS certification program make it ideally suited for affordable housing development.

Given the inclusion of green building certifications as a way towards qualifying for LIHTC programs in other state QAP programs, I respectfully request its inclusion in the 2020 North Carolina QAP.

Additionally, I ask you to consider updating the current reference to Energy Star Version 2.0 in Appendix B to align with the current North Carolina multifamily requirements for the Energy Star Residential New Construction Program, as outlined by Energy Star [here](#).

If you have any questions about this request or would like more information about the NGBS, please contact Michelle Dusseau Diller, NAHB's Program Manager of Sustainability & Green Building, at mdiller@nahb.org or 202-266-8375.

Sincerely,

James H. Pressly