

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 548

Expressing the sense of the Senate that high performance buildings improve the quality of life for millions of individuals, produce a more resilient and sustainable world for current and future generations, reduce operating costs, and improve the productivity, comfort, and health of occupants, and designating the week of June 11 through June 15, 2018, as “High Performance Building Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2018

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that high performance buildings improve the quality of life for millions of individuals, produce a more resilient and sustainable world for current and future generations, reduce operating costs, and improve the productivity, comfort, and health of occupants, and designating the week of June 11 through June 15, 2018, as “High Performance Building Week”.

Whereas the term “high performance building” is defined in section 401 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17061) as “a building that integrates and optimizes on a life cycle basis all major high per-

formance attributes, including energy conservation, environment, safety, security, durability, accessibility, cost-benefit, productivity, sustainability, functionality, and operational considerations”;

Whereas, because individuals spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors and buildings are the single largest consumer of energy and water in the United States, built environments have a vast impact on virtually all aspects of life and national security in the United States;

Whereas the United States benefits technologically, economically, and environmentally from innovative technologies developed for use in high performance buildings;

Whereas research and programs that are supported by government entities and private industry and relate to high performance buildings benefit the United States and individuals in the United States; and

Whereas investing in resilient and robust building systems protects individuals and businesses in the United States from the impacts of man-made disasters and natural disasters, such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods, and earthquakes: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates the week of June 11 through
3 June 15, 2018, as “High Performance Building
4 Week”; and

5 (2) supports efforts to—

6 (A) improve the performance of existing
7 and future buildings through—

1 (i) the adoption of best practices and
2 voluntary consensus standards relating to
3 commercial and residential buildings; and

4 (ii) participation by interested parties
5 in—

6 (I) government programs, includ-
7 ing those at the Office of Energy Effi-
8 ciency and Renewable Energy of the
9 Department of Energy;

10 (II) public-private partnerships;
11 and

12 (III) private initiatives;

13 (B) create awareness of the beneficial im-
14 pacts that high performance buildings have on
15 communities, including reductions in operating
16 costs, improvements in the health and produc-
17 tivity of occupants of high performance build-
18 ings, and enhancements in community resil-
19 iency;

20 (C) encourage interested parties to engage
21 in dialogues on innovative policies and pro-
22 grams relating to the build environment that
23 address needs relating to resiliency, workforce
24 development, and energy and water efficiency;

1 (D) support investment in research and
2 programs that incentivize investments in high
3 performance commercial and residential build-
4 ings, as investment in high performance build-
5 ings is in the overall interests of the United
6 States; and

7 (E) invest in training and education for,
8 and celebrate the work of, engineers, architects,
9 builders, code officials, tradespeople, design pro-
10 fessionals, laborers, and others in the construc-
11 tion industry who work to advance high per-
12 formance buildings.

○