

**ENERGY POLICY: House sends efficiency training bill to White House (12/02/2010)****Katie Howell, E&E reporter**

The House last night sent an energy efficiency training measure to the White House for the president's signature.

By voice vote, lawmakers last night approved [S. 3250](#), which would require the General Services Administration to set energy efficiency training standards for employees who manage federal buildings. The Senate had approved the measure by unanimous consent in July.

"You wouldn't give a race car to an inexperienced driver and expect them to win the Indy 500," said Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), who authored the legislation with Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), in a statement. "In the same way, we can't expect our federal buildings to run at peak efficiency if we don't provide our personnel with the training required to make that happen."

Reps. Russ Carnahan (D-Mo.) and Judy Biggert (R-Ill.) had offered up companion legislation in the House. "What the American people want right now are spending cuts and jobs," Biggert said. "This bipartisan bill will help deliver both by cutting federal energy costs and helping train our work force for good-paying jobs utilizing cutting-edge, green technologies."

The legislation was supported by 50 business, advocacy and building safety organizations, including the U.S. Green Building Council and DuPont.

"Federal buildings have and should serve as leading examples of sustainability and high performance -- and use taxpayer dollars responsibly by ensuring these buildings perform at peak efficiency," said Bryan Howard, legislative director at the Green Building Council. "This legislation helps ensure continued federal leadership in green building by providing personnel who are engaged in the operation and maintenance of federal buildings with the necessary skills and training they need."