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CONTACT:

Erin Shaffer

Vice President of Federal Outreach

Green Building Initiative, Inc.

erin@thegbi.org

202-285-8339 (mobile)

Green Building Initiative Applauds General Services Administration's Recognition of Green Globes as Equivalent to LEED

Portland, Ore. – October 29, 2013 – The Green Building Initiative (GBI) applauds the General Services Administration on its recognition of [Green Globes](#)® alongside the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) as the two recommended third-party certification systems for the federal government to use to gauge performance of its buildings. The [recommendation](#) was made in a letter of October 25th, 2013 addressed to Dr. Ernest Moniz, United States Secretary of Energy.

"Since 2004, GBI has been focused on bringing flexible, cost-effective alternatives to the green building certification market," stated Ray Tonjes, Chairman of GBI and president of Ray Tonjes Builder from Austin, Tex. "The General Services Administration's recognition of Green Globes alongside of LEED is representative of our achievements in providing a comprehensive, transparent and consensus-driven rating system and product line to the market."

GBI's growth in the market is due to its commitment to the practicality of its tools for use by building owners, designers, and facility managers as well as its commitment to open, consensus-based review of its technical criteria. In 2010, GBI was recognized for developing Green Globes for New Construction as the first ever American National Standard for a commercial building rating system. As it continues to improve its rating systems based on changes in the market, GBI remains committed to using the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved consensus procedures.

"GBI is the only commercial building rating system developer to vet its technical criteria through the ANSI process," stated GBI Chairman Tonjes. "This helps to ensure that GBI's rating systems provide the opportunity to evaluate the widest range of buildings using an open, science-based approach to building performance."

ANSI/GBI 01-2010, also known as Green Globes for New Construction, is due for revision before the end of 2015 based on ANSI periodic maintenance requirements. According to Tonjes, GBI's ANSI-based rating system review process will begin before the end of this year with the filing of required documents followed by reformation of the technical review committee.

GBI's tools have a significant focus on both the reduction and efficient use of energy and water in buildings. These, along with other criteria, help reduce building operating costs and their overall impact on the environment.

"Since 2005, the Green Globes product line has evolved to include several updated and expanded tools" stated Erin Shaffer, vice president of federal outreach at GBI.

The overall GBI product line now includes:



- Green Globes® for New Construction;
- Green Globes® for Continual Improvement of Existing Buildings;
- Green Globes® for Health Care;
- Green Globes® Professional (GGP) Credential;
- Green Globes® Assessor (GGA) Credential;
- Guiding Principles Compliance Certification (for federal agencies);
- Guiding Principles Compliance Professional (GPCP) Credential

Shaffer adds, “Our customer service team and onsite third-party assessments with highly qualified, well vetted assessors are key differentiators for those in the market seeking a smarter way to assess and certify green buildings.”

About Green Globes - Green Globes is a web-based program for green building guidance and certification that includes an onsite assessment by a third party. Backed by comprehensive customer support, Green Globes offers a streamlined and affordable way to advance the overall environmental performance and sustainability of commercial buildings. It is suitable for a wide range of buildings including offices, multi-family structures, hospitals, and institutional buildings such as courthouses, schools, and universities.

About the Green Building Initiative™ - The [GBI](#) is a nonprofit organization and ANSI Standards Developer dedicated to accelerating the adoption of building practices that result in energy-efficient, healthier and environmentally sustainable buildings by promoting credible and practical green building approaches. Founded in 2004, the organization is the U.S. provider of the Green Globes and [Guiding Principles Compliance](#) building certification programs.