

Dear _____

Thank you for your input on the G.U.L.F. Standard, Issue I, V5. On April 23rd, 2015, the Technical Advisory Committee overseeing the G.U.L.F. Certification Scheme met in New Orleans, Louisiana, to review the comments submitted during the period of December 15th to February 15th, 2015.

As we build a program that conforms to the principles outlined in the International Standards Organization documents 17065/17067, periodic review and revision of the Standard and other associated scheme documents is an important task that we intend to undertake with regularity. We are committed to being as transparent as possible as we continue to move through this process. An open dialogue with us is crucial, and we will continue to ask for feedback.

The Technical Advisory Committee examined comments from the perspective of whether or not they were appropriate for the intended fit, scope and objectives of the Standard, and whether or not an associated action based on the comment would help clarify technical aspects of clauses and general content of the Standard and supporting documents, particularly document interpretation and evaluation in light of the document's intended purpose. The G.U.L.F. Standard is a translation of the same seminal documents utilized by other standards, with the important difference that it is formatted in such a way as to be appropriate for use in our environmentally, economically, and culturally unique region.

The G.U.L.F. Standard is a key piece of the G.U.L.F. Certification Scheme, and it is supported by associated Guidance Documents, which outline performance metrics against which clauses of the Standard are scored. The Guidance Documents have not yet been released for public comment; we feel many of the concerns voiced by commenters are appropriately addressed by the Guidance Documents, and we look forward to feedback once the Guidance Documents are publically available.

As per the requirements outlined by ISO, the G.U.L.F. Certification Scheme includes certification requirements, through which other certification bodies can apply to certify to the G.U.L.F. Certification Scheme, in addition to the standard-setting and maintenance manual, and scheme operation manual.

As documents continue to be finalized and review by the Technical Advisory Committee, we will continue to solicit comments from stakeholders and interested organizations. We encourage you to reach out at any time with questions you may have regarding our progress, and we invite you to stay up-to-date with developments through monitoring of our website and subscription to our technical newsletter.

Sincerely,
