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**GOVERNOR PATERSON SIGNS STATE GREEN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ACT;
OGS TO DEVELOP “GREEN BUILDING” STANDARDS**

Governor David A. Paterson recently signed the State Green Building Construction Act. The new law gives OGS the authority to develop and implement new green building standards for New York State.

“The State of New York is committed to integrating sustainable design principles and energy efficiency into its building design and construction projects. The goal is an optimal balance of environmental, public and human benefits for meeting the state's construction needs,” said Governor David A. Paterson. “Over the years OGS has demonstrated its ability to put policy into practice through its sustainable policies and LEED-certified green buildings program. I am confident that OGS will chart a sustainable path for environmentally sound, healthy and productive environments.”

“The Office of General Services will now be charged with advancing Governor David A. Paterson's sustainability agenda,” said Office of General Services Commissioner John C. Egan. “We are pleased that this new law will enable the agency to continue to collaborate with state agencies and authorities to construct green buildings that lower energy costs, improve air quality, reduce waste and curb greenhouse gases. We look forward to aggressively pursuing this new responsibility.”

The law requires that any future construction of state buildings, and any substantial renovation planned for existing buildings conform to "green building" principles, which will be developed under the guidance of OGS' design professionals.

In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required all newly constructed major building projects to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold status. Several states have similarly instituted policies requiring green building practices.

Over the past five years OGS has pursued LEED status for all projects completed for its agency clients. The agency now has 31 designers who are LEED-accredited professionals and the OGS Design and Construction unit now assigns a LEED professional to every design project to review opportunities for sustainable design features and to identify projects that may be eligible for LEED certification.

In February 2009, OGS was successful in obtaining LEED-EB (existing building) gold status for the Governor's Mansion. The agency has completed or has planned environmentally sustainable projects on behalf of several state agencies, including the new regional office building for the Department of Environmental Conservation in New Paltz; a new armory for the Department of Military and Naval Affairs in Queensbury; the new Troop G headquarters for the New York State Police in Latham and the food laboratory planned for the State Department of Agriculture and Markets at the Harriman Campus in Albany.

The bill was sponsored in the state Assembly by Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo (D-Endwell). The sponsor in the state Senate was Senator Antoine Thompson (D-Buffalo), the Chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee. The bill passed unanimously in the Assembly (139-0) on June 10th and overwhelmingly in the state Senate (55-2) on July 10th.