

October 11, 2024

Re: Re-X Before Recycling support letter

Dear U.S. Department of Energy and the Re-X Review Committee,

My name is Michael Orbank and I work as the Sustainability Manager for the Northeast US at the STO Building Group. I also chair the Carbon Leadership Forum (CLF) of Boston's Reuse group and serve as board chair for Boston Building Resources, a community-based reuse non-profit. I am writing this letter in support of Team ReCapturit in their pursuit of the Re-X Before Recycling Prize, October 2024.

Professionally, I have developed a deep passion for construction and demolition (C&D) waste reduction and landfill diversion. Every day I become more painfully aware of the lack of progress the construction industry and broader built environment has made towards deconstruction, material reuse and waste diversion. As the climate crisis worsens, there is an urgent need for circular material pathways and a new vision for recapturing and rethinking C&D waste in the U.S. I believe that ReCapturit can be a solution to this growing problem.

I first interfaced with ReCapturit in June of 2024 during their circularity and deconstruction evaluation for Brookline, MA. Since then, I have had the pleasure of hosting ReCapturit on CLF webinars and contributing my technical expertise to their mission. Rethinking the typical pathways that building materials take is a plus, but ReCapturit goes further than that by connecting reuse resources and presenting a framework on how circularity can be accomplished. Through their webinars, eBooks, materials marketplace, and regional circularity assessments, ReCapturit is quickly becoming an invaluable resource that provides achievable solutions in a sea of greenwashing theories.

As I attempt to decarbonize construction projects, reduce the astronomical burden of C&D waste from projects, and bring sustainable innovation to a stubborn industry, I need collaborative partners like ReCapturit. I implore you to consider ReCapturit's submission for the Re-X Before Recycling Prize, as I wholeheartedly support their mission and vision for a realized circular economy for the built environment. If awarded the prize funds and collaborative support, I believe ReCapturit can truly change my industry at large. By supporting ReCapturit's submission, I support their vision for circular innovation that is not only best practice but a necessary puzzle piece to help solve the climate crisis at large.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Orbank II', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael J. Orbank II
Sustainability Manager, Northeast
STO Building Group – Structure Tone