



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 17, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) is supported by more than 5,000 construction firms engaged in industrial, commercial, residential, architectural and specialty sheet metal and air conditioning construction in public and private markets throughout the United States. SMACNA members can be found on a wide variety of projects across the nation in urban and suburban areas. We specialize in heating, ventilating and air conditioning; architectural sheet metal; industrial sheet metal; kitchen equipment; specialty stainless steel work; manufacturing; siding and decking; testing and balancing; service; and energy management and maintenance. **On behalf of SMACNA, I want to express our strongest opposition to provisions in H.R. 1, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, which would slash the General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Buildings Fund by a devastating \$1.6 billion.** Increased energy efficiency in commercial buildings can quickly serve our nation's goals for energy independence, national security, environment quality and skilled job creation, while slashing energy costs for building owners.

Our member companies are very familiar with and support the GSA's long overdue effort to deeply reduce energy waste, operating costs and carbon emissions while sustaining and creating private sector construction activity at a time of near record unemployment in many sectors of the building industry. The GSA is the owner or lessee of space in 8,600 buildings across the nation and initiates and manages a diverse range of facility design, construction, rehabilitation, restoration, renovation, and operations projects in communities throughout the country. The GSA Federal Buildings Fund is an important program that saves the taxpayer money as it cuts costly energy waste throughout the federal government's building inventory. It mirrors smart investment strategies in the private sector implemented in recent years to cut operating expenses through high performance facility upgrades, operations maintenance and new construction. GAO has identified that addressing the needs of aging and deteriorating federal facilities remains a problem for real property-holding agencies, and that according to recent estimates, tens of billions of dollars are needed to repair or restore these assets so that they are fully functional.

Our member companies, many leading the energy efficiency effort in the private and public sectors, urge you to reject the irresponsible cuts to the GSA's Federal Buildings Fund proposed in H.R. 1. Failure to retrofit federal facilities for energy efficiency will cost the taxpayer now and in the future as energy waste continues in thousands of massive buildings. Congress should support the Administration's smart investments reducing energy costs through sustainable high performance retrofits – investments that also serve our nation's energy security, employment and environmental goals.

Sincerely,

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Capitol Hill Office



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