



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

June 15, 2011

The Honorable Representative
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 construction throughout the United States. On behalf of SMACNA, I want to express our appreciation for your support for the appropriate use of construction project labor agreements (PLA's) on public construction. **Therefore, we thank you for your support of the LaTourette Amendment to HR 2055 that passed on the House floor June 13th. We understand that it was not easy to strip the language prohibiting the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) in the Military Construction Appropriations bill - HR 2055 and are most grateful for your leadership and vote supporting the effort by Representative LaTourette.** Under government financed PLA's, competing construction contractors and prospective workers are solicited for PLA projects regardless of their union or nonunion status as required by law. In comparison, private owners are free to select PLA's to build their projects taking advantage of more skilled, union-only PLA's as an economic decision. Simply put, Federal PLA's are determined by an open bidding process for all contractors and workers contrary to the myth advanced in the form of the Committee's anti PLA amendment - added without a recorded vote to HR 2055.

SMACNA's position supports the option of considering and utilizing PLA's where deemed in the best economic interest of the project owner on behalf of the taxpayer on public work. From decades of real life experience on projects where PLA's have been used, our firms know that project agreements are a voluntary, legal and most often highly efficient means of meeting construction quality standards, owner deadlines and unique project demands. **Most PLA's are found on large private projects because they work for the bottom line. On corporate PLA's budget and scheduling decisions are most highly scrutinized and still PLA's are favored again and again across the nation.**

SMACNA believes that utilizing project agreements on federal construction when and where appropriate expands the proprietary responsibility the President is charged with under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act and offers the likely result of decreased costs, higher quality and expedited project completions. **Smart construction management calls for the federal government, like the private sector, to have the option to consider and establish project agreements where necessary and appropriate.** While banning the use of PLA's on large federal projects in the last Administration may have found favor in some ideological circles, unfortunately it did not serve sound construction management in all cases. Economics, not ideology, should drive PLA decisions.

Again, thank you for supporting the LaTourette Amendment to HR 2055. Stripping the misguided ban of PLA's from the Mil-Con Appropriations bill best served the taxpayer and commonsense construction management.

Sincerely,

Stanley E. Kolbe, Jr.
Director, Governmental Affairs



CAPITOL HILL OFFICE: 305 4TH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20002
PHONE: 202 547 8202 • FAX: 202 547 8810

HEADQUARTERS: 4201 LAFAYETTE CENTER DRIVE • CHANTILLY VA 20151-1209
MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 221230 • CHANTILLY VA 20153-1230
PHONE: 703 803 2980 • FAX: 703 803 3732
WEB: www.smacna.org