



February 6, 2009

U.S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510 (20515)

Action requested: Re-authorize, fully fund, and widely require E-Verify employment verification for companies awarded projects under the Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Dear Rep/Senator:

E-Verify is essential to make sure public projects funded by the American taxpayers in the recovery and reinvestment bill are not corrupted by the scourge of illegal employment policies with precious jobs going to illegal workers. It is essential public policy and sound procurement policy to award work only to employers that respect all U.S. legal employment policies. For that purpose, Congress must reauthorize the vastly improved E-Verify system, fully fund it, and make it apply to all direct Federal and federally funded projects under the recovery bill and otherwise as proposed in the House bill.

We fully support the right of all legal workers to be fully employed without discrimination. However, it is well-documented that illegal employment practices and misclassification of workers as independent contractors are rampant in the construction industry. Both types of related abuses undermine the integrity of the employment relationship and rob the industry of fair competition to the detriment of legally compliant employers, industry clients and the taxpayers.

CQC employers invest substantial sums in high-value workforce domestic benefits and training programs for the benefit of our domestic workforce, the economy and the taxpayers generally. Because of CQC-member lawful and high-value employment systems, CQC employers favor widespread use of E-Verify to rid the market of unlawful competitors who exploit illegal workers, misclassify employees as independent contractors, and otherwise undermine the competitive position of high-value employers and subvert U.S. domestic legal employment policies as well.

We also support rapid deployment of the Federal contractor legal compliance database passed by Congress last year to discourage scofflaw contractors from successfully competing for public contract awards. Moreover, CQC employers support some aspects of comprehensive immigration reform, but insist that high-value prevailing wage standards apply strictly to whatever limited guest worker program may be permitted.

Sincerely,

Campaign for Quality Construction Contractor Groups
The Finishing Contractors Association
The Mechanical Contractors Association of America
The Association of Union Constructors
The International Council of Employers of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association

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