



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

February 23, 2009

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. **As President of SMACNA, I want to express our opposition to H.R. 983, legislation banning the use of project labor agreements on federal construction.** Further, we have joined other organizations in supporting President Obama for signing the Executive Order encouraging executive agencies to require the consideration of the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLA's) on all federal-funded construction projects. The Administration's action to reverse the last eight year period of hostility toward PLA-managed projects is a great source of optimism to our leadership and the thousands of contractors we represent.

From decades or 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. **For this reason, most PLA's are found on private projects where corporate budget and scheduling decisions are highly scrutinized.** Under PLA's competing construction corporations and prospective workers are considered for PLA projects regardless of their union or nonunion status. 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 circles, unfortunately it did not serve sound construction management in all cases.

We ask you for your vocal and active opposition to H.R. 983 and related efforts to limit consideration and use of PLA's on federal construction projects.

Sincerely,

John Ilten
President, SMACNA



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