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Building and Construction Trades Department

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February 24, 2011

The Honorable Rodney Alexander
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Alexander:

On behalf of the approximately 2 million skilled craft professionals that comprise America's Building Trades Unions, I would like to extend a sincere thank you for your steadfast defense of community standards within the U.S. construction industry.

By opposing King amendment 273 and Guinta amendment 166 which were offered during the debate over H.R. 1, you have sent a powerful signal that even within a Congress that is as fiscally conservative and budget-minded as the 112th Congress is proving to be, large bipartisan majorities continue to recognize that the fundamental, underlying principles that define both prevailing wage laws and project labor agreements are mainstream American values.

It is our hope that the opponents of common sense public policy will once and for all reach the unmistakable conclusion that these vote totals reflect incontrovertible evidence that the U.S. Congress must finally decide to put politically-motivated attacks aside, and instead choose to respond to the demands of American workers and taxpayers to create jobs and rectify our dismal economic situation. Put simply, partisan politics has never paid a mortgage or put food on anyone's table.

In closing, I would say to you that America's Building Trades Unions will continue to work with and support any legislator, at any level of government that promotes common sense solutions and defends high road community standards in the construction industry, regardless of political party affiliation. And because of your assistance, we now have clear evidence of broad congressional support for the idea that fiscally conservative policies aimed at our nation's budget deficits do not have to occur at the expense of standards that strengthen the U.S. construction industry and sustain healthy vibrant communities.

We look forward to both working with the 112th Congress to put politics aside and create jobs, as well as continuing a close working relationship with you and your staff.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely

Mark H. Ayers
President