



May 13, 2010

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national organization with 77 chapters representing 25,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms with 2 million employees, we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for *The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009* (H.R. 1547). ABC supports initiatives that spur construction, economic growth, and job creation within the construction industry.

The construction industry has suffered the most acute impacts of the economic downturn. With a current unemployment rate of nearly 22 percent, the construction industry needs initiatives that encourage new building and infrastructure improvements. The *Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009* (CHIA) will provide incentives for capital and safety upgrades to student housing on college campuses nationwide.

Current tax laws hinder not-for-profit housing access to capital for safety upgrades. The CHIA provides for tax deductible contributions made to colleges and universities to be used for capital improvements to fraternity, sorority, and other student housing developments across the country.

Over \$1 billion in capital improvement projects at fraternity and sorority housing nationwide is “shovel-ready” but needs funding. Private funds will create and maintain jobs for local plumbers, roofers, carpenters, electricians, contractors and other individuals working in our hard-hit industry. The \$1 billion in pending projects would create between 8,000 to 16,000 jobs within the construction industry.

Every dollar impacted by this change to the tax code ultimately gets paid out for new construction jobs to build, expand, and upgrade not-for-profit student housing nationwide. ABC encourages all members of congress to support *The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009* as it will spur job creation, economic growth and opportunity within the construction industry.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Burr  
Vice President, Federal Affairs