



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

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Dede Hughes, IOM
Fort Worth, Texas

May 25, 2010

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), a national organization with nearly 160 chapters across the United States and approximately 4,200 members representing all facets of the construction industry including large, international construction management firms, subcontractors, material suppliers, vendors, tradeswomen, as well as construction-related firms, we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009 [H.R. 1547] (“CHIA”). NAWIC supports initiatives that promote economic growth and job creation for the construction industry.

With the economic downturns, the construction industry has been grossly affected, resulting in an unemployment rate of nearly 22 percent, and needs initiatives that encourage new building and infrastructure improvements. The current tax laws restrict access to capital for safety upgrades at not-for-profit housing and with over \$1 billion in capital improvement projects at fraternity, sorority and other student housing developments across the country being “shovel-ready”, access to funding is imperative. CHIA will provide incentives for capital and safety upgrades by allowing tax deductible contributions made to colleges and universities to be used for these improvements. With the private funding, the \$1 billion in pending projects would create and maintain between 8,000 to 16,000 jobs within the construction industry.

NAWIC encourages all members of Congress to support The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009 as every dollar impacted by this change to the tax code will ultimately promote economic growth and job creation nationwide for the construction industry.

Respectfully,

Riki F. Lovejoy
Legislative Awareness Chair