



Women Construction Owners & Executives, USA

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June 1, 2010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Women Construction Owners and Executives, USA (WCOE), a national organization representing women business owners and policy-making executives in the construction industry, we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for *The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009 (S.781)*. WCOE is supportive of initiatives that stimulate construction, economic growth, and job creation within the construction industry.

The construction industry has suffered some of the most severe impacts of the economic downturn and urgently 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 through private donations to colleges and universities to be used for capital improvements on more than 4000 fraternity, sorority, and other student housing developments on over 800 campuses 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, and other contractors - including many businesses owned and operated by the women represented by Women Construction Owners & Executives, USA (WCOE). Many of our businesses have suffered greatly in this recession and passage of CHIA will generate the \$1 billion in pending projects that would create between 8,000 to 16,000 jobs within the construction industry. These projects will not only create jobs, but will also improve the energy efficiency, life safety infrastructure, and capacity of student housing for more than 250, 000 students per year.

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. WCOE encourages all members of congress to support *The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009* as it will stimulate job creation, economic growth and opportunity within the construction industry.

Sincerely,

Theresa Kern
President
Women Construction Owners and Executives, USA