

February 17, 2011

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative:

The diverse group of undersigned construction and business associations urges you to vote for Congressman Frank Guinta's (R-NH) Amendment #166 to the Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1), which prohibits the funding of any government construction contracts subject to a government-mandated project labor agreement (PLA) for fiscal year 2011.

A government-mandated PLA is a contract that typically requires construction projects to be awarded only to companies that agree to recognize unions as the representatives of their employees on that job; use the union hiring hall to obtain workers; follow archaic and inefficient work rules; and pay into union benefit and multi-employer pension plans that nonunion employees will never be able to access, forcing non-signatory employers to pay twice for retirement and health care benefits.

President's Obama's Feb., 6, 2009, Executive Order 13502 encourages federal agencies to require PLAs on federal construction projects exceeding \$25 million in total cost in order to "advance the economy and efficiency in federal contracting." Government-mandated PLAs can unfairly discourage competition from nonunion contractors and their employees—who comprise almost 87 percent of the U.S. private construction workforce. PLAs can also needlessly increase construction costs.

The Guinta Amendment #166 will curb waste and favoritism in the procurement of federal construction projects and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly. We ask that you take a stand against discrimination and special interest set-asides in government contracting and vote in support of the Guinta Amendment #166.

The measure will create a level playing field in the procurement of government construction contracts that will increase competition, help small businesses grow, curb increased construction costs and create jobs for the construction industry, which suffers from a 22.5 percent unemployment rate.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
Construction Industry Roundtable (CIRT)
Independent Electrical Contractors Association (IEC)
Merit Elevator Contractors Association of America
National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) – Philadelphia Chapter
National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC)
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA)
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce