



May 22, 2019

The Honorable Mike Enzi  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Enzi,

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 members, I write today in support of the *Voluntary Protection Program Act* (S. 904). The safety of our workforce is a top priority for ABC contractors, and we applaud you for introducing legislation that will help to create the conditions for every worker to go home safe and healthy every day.

ABC members know exceptional jobsite safety and health practices are inherently good for business, the industry, the communities ABC members build and our most important asset – our workforce. ABC strongly believes that employers committed to safety should be viewed as partners in achieving safer workplaces, and that Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s cooperative programs, including the Voluntary Protection Program, should be promoted.

Many ABC companies have implemented safety programs that are among the best programs in the industry, often far exceeding OSHA requirements. ABC also knows excellence in safety is essential.

That’s why ABC founded the STEP safety management system in 1989, a world-class safety evaluation that dramatically improves safety performance among participants regardless of company size or type of work. A safety benchmarking and improvement tool, STEP allows companies to measure their safety processes and policies, as well as implement or enhance current safety programs. And the results are clear: in 2018, the best performing STEP participants were 680 percent safer than the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics industry average.

On behalf of ABC, we are pleased S. 904 would make VPP permanent. Thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue and we encourage all members of the Senate to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen  
Vice President of Legislative & Political Affairs