



March 24, 2010

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national association with 77 chapters representing 25,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms with 2 million employees, we are writing to express our strong support for the Motion to Commit with Instructions offered by Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY). This motion would remove the employer mandate from the healthcare reform package and return H.R.4872 to the Senate Finance Committee. **ABC strongly urges Senators to support this motion, and will consider the vote on this motion as a “KEY VOTE” for our 111<sup>th</sup> Congressional Scorecard.**

The construction industry is currently experiencing the highest unemployment rate of any sector in our nation’s economy, with over 27 percent of construction employees out of work. While ABC members are struggling to survive the worst construction economy in generations, it is unfathomable that our elected leaders would see now as an appropriate time to impose vast new government mandates on these businesses.

Federal government imposed mandates such as this would be objectionable at any time, in any economy; however, imposing them on employers at a time of record high unemployment demonstrates a fundamental failure to understand the needs of small businesses and our economy. The Nation’s unemployment rate is at 9.7% and we should be doing everything in our power to create jobs, not blatantly cut them. According to CBO, “Requiring employers to offer health insurance—or pay a fee if they do not—is likely to reduce employment.”

ABC urges all members to vote in support of the motion offered by Senator Enzi and will consider this vote as a “KEY VOTE” for our 111<sup>th</sup> Congressional Scorecard.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Burr

Vice President, Federal Affairs