



Statement of Associated Builders and Contractors

U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Chairman Edward Kennedy and Ranking Member Michael Enzi

Hearing on:

“Empowering Workers to Rebuild America’s Economy and Longer-
Term Competitiveness: Green Skills Training for Workers”

April 21, 2009

The Voice of the Merit Shop®

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) appreciates the opportunity to submit the following statement for the official record.

We would like to thank the Committee Chairman, Edward Kennedy and Ranking Member Michael Enzi, as well as the members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions for holding today's hearing entitled "Empowering Workers to Rebuild America's Economy and Longer-Term Competitiveness: Green Skills Training for Workers".

ABC is a national construction industry trade association representing more than 25,000 merit shop contractors, subcontractors, materials suppliers and construction-related firms within a network of 79 chapters throughout the United States and Guam. ABC member contractors employ more than 2.5 million skilled construction workers, whose training, skills, and experience span all of the twenty-plus skilled trades that comprise the construction industry. Moreover, the vast majority of our contractor members are classified as small businesses. Our diverse membership is bound by a shared commitment to the merit shop philosophy in the construction industry. This philosophy is based on the principles of full and open competition unfettered by the government, nondiscrimination based on labor affiliation, and the award of construction contracts to the lowest responsible bidder through open and competitive bidding. This process assures that taxpayers and consumers will receive the most for their construction dollar.

ABC member companies have been at the forefront of green construction since before this terminology came into fashion. In fact, ABC has been at the forefront of the green building movement since its inception. ABC member SIGAL Construction was a founding member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) as well as one of the authors of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. ABC members continue leading the construction industry by utilizing sustainable construction methods and practices. According to Engineering News-Record in 2008, 53 of the Top 100 Green Contractors were ABC members generating close to \$15 billion in revenue with more than 2,800 LEED Accredited Professionals (APs) on staff. (Attachment 1)

ABC chapters and member companies are actively engaged in training workers in a wide variety of skilled occupations and are constantly striving to keep pace with technology and innovation in order to make certain America has the skilled workforce it deserves, and that all American workers, regardless of union affiliation, enjoy equal opportunity of access to critical job training. However, the continued participation of open shop contractors, and the job opportunities for over 84 percent of the construction workforce they employ, in the booming green building market is threatened by the efforts of many in Washington, D.C. to exclude non-union companies and training providers from participating in new government funded green jobs training programs.

The Green Jobs Act, enacted as part of the "Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007" which was signed into law in December 2007, establishes National Energy Training Partnership Grants to fund training programs targeted at creating an efficient

energy and renewable energy skilled workforce. Specifically, the Green Jobs Act would require any entity applying for these grants to partner with organized labor. The reality is that this language would bar the numerous open shop training programs from receiving this grant funding.

Organized labor makes up just 15.6 percent of the private construction workforce and likely represents a similar amount of work in the green building market. Given the desire to see a continued increase in the use of green building and green technology, it seems that limiting the ability to participate in green training to such a small percentage of the construction industry would make this growth difficult. If the green building market is going to continue to expand in the coming years as some groups predict, the participation of the open shop will be a crucial factor in ensuring there are enough skilled workers to meet the demand.

To that end, ABC, along with many other construction and business groups, strongly supports the “Green Jobs Improvement Act” soon to be introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman John Kline which would amend the Workforce Investment Act to allow both union and open shop training providers access to the federally funded energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training programs. This bill would give all workers the opportunity to train in the ever increasing field of green construction and would not block certain training providers access simply because they choose not to be affiliated with organized labor.

The advances in the technology and skill involved in green building, and the benefits of their use, is indeed a welcome trend for contractors, skilled workers and the end user. It is our view that the most efficient path to encouraging this continued growth of this sector is by giving all training providers, regardless of union affiliation, access to federal training programs so that the greatest numbers of workers can be trained in green jobs. In today’s tough economic times, especially in the construction industry, Members of Congress have a responsibility to provide all workers with training opportunities paid for by their tax dollars.

Again, thank you for your work, and we look forward to your continued efforts to promote green building opportunities for all contractors.

Attachment 1



According to Engineering News-Record in 2008, 53 of the Top 100 Green Contractors were ABC members generating close to \$15 billion in revenue with more than 2,800 LEED APs on staff -

http://enr.construction.com/people/topLists/GreenCont/topGreenCont_1-50.asp.

Highlighted firms are ABC member companies:

| RANK 2008 | FIRM | APs on staff | 07 GREEN REV | |
|--------------|--|-----------------|--------------|-------|
| | | | \$MIL | % REV |
| 1 | The Turner Corp., New York, N.Y. | 429 | 1805.05 | 19 |
| 2 | Webcor Builders, San Mateo, Calif. | | | |
| 3 | Skanska USA Inc., Whitestone, N.Y. | 164 | 1242.34 | 22 |
| 4 | Bovis Lend Lease, New York, N.Y. | 201 | 1075.5 | 20 |
| 5 | Swinerton Inc., San Francisco, Calif. | 195 | 1046 | 52 |
| 6 | PCL Construction Enterprises Inc., Denver, Colo. | 18 | 936.71 | 19 |
| 7 | Clark Group, Bethesda, Md. | 85 | 752.97 | 18 |
| 8 | Hensel Phelps Construction Co., Greeley, Colo. | 68 | 747.68 | 30 |
| 9 | Gilbane Building Co., Providence, R.I. | 186 | 651.87 | 22 |
| 10 | The Haskell Co., Jacksonville, Fla. | 17 | 562 | 79 |
| 11 | Hunt Construction Group Inc., Scottsdale, Ariz. | 25 | 527.32 | 26 |
| 12 | L.F. Driscoll Co., Bala Cynwyd, Pa. | | | |
| 13 | Hoffman Corp., Portland, Ore. | | | |
| 14 | The Whiting-Turner Contracting Co., Baltimore, Md. | | | |
| 15 | Sundt Construction Inc., Tempe, Ariz. | 74 | 440.3 | 49 |
| 16 | Clayco Inc., St. Louis, Mo. | | | |
| 17 | The Weitz Co. LLC, Des Moines, Iowa | 58 | 349.33 | 22 |
| 18 | Austin Industries, Dallas, Texas | 47 | 345.9 | 2 |
| 19 | David E. Harvey Builders Inc., Houston, Texas | 13 | 337 | 47 |
| 20 | Holder Construction Co., Atlanta, Ga. | | | |
| 21 | Balfour Beatty Construction, Dallas, Texas | 50 | 273.58 | 12 |
| 22 | The Facility Group, Smyrna, Ga. | | | |
| 23 | B.L. Harbert International LLC, Birmingham, Ala. | 5 | 267.1 | 63 |
| 24 | JE Dunn Construction Group, Kansas City, Mo. | 133 | 266.5 | 10 |
| 25 | William A. Berry & Son Inc., Danvers, Mass. | | | |
| 26 | Caddell Construction Co. Inc., Montgomery, Ala. | 4 | 256.54 | 74 |
| 27 | Structure Tone, New York, N.Y. | 140 | 248.43 | 7 |
| 28 | Opus Group, Minnetonka, Minn. | 92 | 225.3 | 12 |
| 29 | FTR International Inc., Irvine, Calif. | | | |
| 30 | Stellar, Jacksonville, Fla. | 25 | 199.9 | 36 |
| 31 | HITT Contracting Inc., Fairfax, Va. | 17 | 199.04 | 22 |
| 32 | James G. Davis Construction Corp., Rockville, Md. | | | |
| 33 | Pepper Construction Group, Chicago, Ill. | | | |
| 34 | M.A. Mortenson Co., Minneapolis, Minn. | | | |
| 35 | Suffolk Construction Co. Inc., Boston, Mass. | 56 | 170.06 | 15 |
| 36 | DPR Construction Inc., Redwood City, Calif. | 211 | 167.22 | 11 |
| 37 | Linbeck, Houston, Texas | | | |
| 38 | Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction, San Francisco, Calif. | | | |
| 39 | Messer Construction, Cincinnati, Ohio | 11 | 146.5 | 22 |
| 40 | TLT Construction Corp., Wakefield, Mass. | | | |
| 41 | The Walsh Group, Portland, Ore. | 20 | 136.5 | 52 |
| 42 | The Walsh Group Ltd., Chicago, Ill. | 44 | 135.47 | 4 |
| 43 | Barton Malow Co., Southfield, Mich. | 40 | 133.24 | 9 |
| 44 | Okland Construction Co. Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|-------------------------|----|
| 45 | McCarthy Holdings Inc., St. Louis, Mo. | | | |
| 46 | Power Construction Co. LLC, Schaumburg, Ill. | | | |
| 47 | Andersen Construction Co., Portland, Ore. | | | |
| 48 | Duke Construction, Indianapolis, Ind. | | | |
| 49 | Grunley Construction Co. Inc., Rockville, Md. | 9 | 109.06 | 41 |
| 50 | Lauth Construction Group LLC, Indianapolis, Ind. | | | |
| 51 | Cox & Schepp Construction Inc., Charlotte, N.C. | 8 | 105 | 50 |
| 52 | Barnhart Inc., San Diego, Calif. | | | |
| 53 | Saunders Construction Inc., Centennial, Colo. | | | |
| 54 | Ryan Cos. US Inc., Minneapolis, Minn. | 47 | 101.25 | 10 |
| 55 | Pioneer General Contractors, Grand Rapids, Mich. | | | |
| 56 | Sellen Construction Co. Inc., Seattle, Wash. | | | |
| 57 | Bernards, San Fernando, Calif. | | | |
| 58 | BE&K Inc., Birmingham, Ala. | 22 | 79.48 | 5 |
| 59 | Kraus-Anderson Construction Co., Minneapolis, Minn. | | | |
| 60 | Lusardi Construction Co., San Marcos, Calif. | 0 | 77 | 25 |
| 61 | Consigli Construction Co. Inc., Milford, Mass. | | | |
| 62 | The Yates Cos. Inc., Philadelphia, Miss. | 25 | 75.2 | 4 |
| 63 | C.W. Driver, Pasadena, Calif. | 18 | 75.01 | 13 |
| 64 | Hall Building Corp., Farmingdale, N.J. | | | |
| 65 | New South Construction Co., Atlanta, Ga. | 7 | 73.8 | 47 |
| 66 | McGough Construction, St. Paul, Minn. | | | |
| 67 | Mascaro Construction Co. LP, Pittsburgh, Pa. | | | |
| 68 | Forrester Construction Co., Rockville, Md. | 40 | 70 | 26 |
| 69 | Lease Crutcher Lewis, Seattle, Wash. | | | |
| 70 | Reno Contracting Inc., San Diego, Calif. | 11 | 66.16 | 30 |
| 71 | Rockford Construction Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. | 6 | 63.73 | 18 |
| 72 | The Boldt Co., Appleton, Wis. | | | |
| 73 | P.J. Dick-Trumbull-Lindy, West Mifflin, Pa. | | | |
| 74 | Shawmut Design and Construction, Boston, Mass. | | | |
| 75 | The Korte Co., Highland, Ill. | | | |
| 76 | Brasfield & Gorrie LLC, Birmingham, Ala. | 7 | 49.72 | 2 |
| 77 | O & G Industries Inc., Torrington, Conn. | | | |
| 78 | INTECH Construction Inc., Philadelphia, Pa. | | | |
| 79 | CORE Construction Group, Morton, Ill. | 20 | 48.4 | 9 |
| 80 | Manhattan Construction Co., Tulsa, Okla. | 15 | 43.7 | 4 |
| 81 | Continental Building Systems, Columbus, Ohio | | | |
| 82 | XL Construction Corp., Milpitas, Calif. | | | |
| 83 | Workstage, Grand Rapids, Mich. | | | |
| 84 | Adolfson & Peterson Constr., Minneapolis, Minn. | 48 | 40.4 | 5 |
| 85 | Butz Enterprises Inc., Allentown, Pa. | | | |
| 86 | JM Olson Corp., St. Clair Shores, Mich. | | | |
| 87 | Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc., Anchorage, Alaska | | | |
| 88 | IMC Construction, Malvern, Pa. | | | |
| 89 | Hoar Construction LLC, Birmingham, Ala. | 15 | 35.4 | 7 |
| 90 | Nabholz Construction Corp., Conway, Ariz. | 10 | 34.2 | 8 |
| 91 | Tarlton Corp., St. Louis, Mo. | | | |
| 92 | Harper Construction Co. Inc., San Diego, Calif. | 5 | 31.6 | 23 |
| 93 | Creative Contractors Inc., Clearwater, Fla. | 4 | 31.12 | |
| 94 | F.A. Wilhelm Construction Co. Inc., Indianapolis, Ind. | | | |
| 95 | Moss & Associates LLC, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. | 26 | 28.9 | 4 |
| 96 | Coakley & Williams Construction, Gaithersburg, Md. | 8 | 24.5 | 9 |
| 97 | Elkins Constructors Inc., Jacksonville, Fla. | 6 | 20.87 | 9 |
| 98 | Weis Builders Inc., Minneapolis, Minn. | 15 | 20.79 | 4 |
| 99 | Sahara Inc., West Bountiful, Utah | 4 | 20.6 | 23 |
| 100 | Gray Construction, Lexington, Ky. | 5 | 19.46 | 4 |
| | | 2809 | \$14,990,700,000 | |