



February 17, 2010

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Blanche Lincoln
355 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Lincoln:

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, I am writing to voice our support for the January 21 Murkowski resolution of disapproval in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) plans to introduce a host of new greenhouse gas regulations under the Clean Air Act. We thank you for taking the lead on this important issue for the construction industry.

Like you, ABC believes that allowing the EPA to hastily move forward with regulatory action, without first obtaining a legislative mandate from Congress, is an inappropriate manner in which to proceed. EPA's proposed actions will no doubt impede economic recovery through permitting delays, as well as increased energy and materials prices. These developments will surely hamper much-needed construction projects and ultimately, contribute to additional and unnecessary job loss.

The threat of further workforce cuts is especially troubling to the construction industry, which has already been severely impacted by the economic downturn. Industry wide, 1.9 million jobs have been lost since December 2007, and we continue to experience massive job losses, including 75,000 in January 2010 alone. With a current unemployment rate of nearly 25 percent, the construction industry simply cannot endure another massive blow to its workforce, especially at the hands of the federal government.

It is clear that we are facing unprecedented economic challenges, and ABC members both large and small are eager to stimulate growth and spur job creation. It is for these reasons that ABC supports your resolution under the Congressional Review Act. We appreciate the reasonable, bipartisan approach that you and other members of the Senate are taking to protect our industry from burdensome and unreasonable regulatory action.

Sincerely,

Brewster B. Bevis
Senior Director, Legislative Affairs

Cc: U.S. Senate
Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency