



**News Release**

## **ABC SAYS MORE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY WOULD HURT SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH**

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) today expressed concern over the creation of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB), that is included in the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010 (S.3217). The CFPB would add a new layer of federal bureaucracy to small business lending by establishing additional paperwork and record-keeping requirements.

“We do not need more red tape and more federal government regulations,” said 2010 ABC National Chairman Jim Elmer, founder and president of James W. Elmer Construction Co., Spokane, Wash. “The majority of U.S. construction firms are small businesses that need unhampered access to capital to fund construction projects and create jobs.

“In order to jump start the lagging economy and put the men and women of the construction industry back to work, ABC calls on Congress and the administration to focus on free-enterprise initiatives and open competition instead of creating yet another new federal government agency,” said Elmer. “With unemployment in the construction industry at nearly 25 percent, creating jobs should be their number one priority.”

In a [letter](#) to members of the U.S. Senate, ABC stated that “The construction industry has suffered the most acute impacts of the economic downturn, and access to capital, or the lack thereof, is a major and continuing factor in our industry’s struggles.”

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, nearly 90 percent of the nation's 26 million small businesses use some form of credit for operating costs and expansion. However, many small business construction contractors cannot get traditional bank loans because they may not have a credit history and are forced to rely on securing home equity loans, personal loans, auto title loans and credit cards to obtain credit.

To read ABC’s letter to the U.S. Senate, go [here](#).

To read the ABC 2010 Job Creation Proposal, go [here](#).

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Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national association with 77 chapters representing 25,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms with two million employees. To find out more about ABC, visit [www.abc.org](http://www.abc.org)

