



June 8, 2021

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear U.S. Senators:

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 to express ABC's support for [Amendment #1858](#) to S. 1260, the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021, formerly the Endless Frontier Act. Offered by Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), this amendment would remove flawed and inflationary Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements from this critical legislation that will bolster America's domestic technology manufacturing to more effectively compete with China. **ABC strongly urges you to support this critical amendment and will consider this a "KEY VOTE" for our scorecard on the 117th Congress.**

While ABC is encouraged by productive bipartisan negotiations and generally supportive of increasing our nation's competitive standing in the international arena, we remained concerned that the anti-competitive, prevailing wage provisions in this legislation would create unnecessary burdens on the businesses and workforce who would otherwise be able to help deliver on this legislation's goals.

Senator Cornyn's amendment would strip unnecessary Davis-Bacon provisions added during the committee process that jeopardize the funding for the [Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors \(CHIPS\) for America Act](#), which is included in the bill. ABC and our members are also opposed to the provisions of the underlying bill that would expand Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements to fund the construction of regional technology hubs. While ABC supports increased financing of infrastructure projects like these technology hubs, we are concerned that applying federal Davis-Bacon Act requirements would decrease the value to taxpayers while failing to require the U.S. Department of Labor to improve its ongoing wage determination issues. The flawed and inflationary wage determination process [increases the cost of construction](#) and can have chilling impact on competition, particularly for small and minority-owned businesses.

ABC urges the Senate to consider the negative effects the prevailing wage requirements would impose on the contractors who would compete to build projects funded by this bill. Simply put, this requirement will hinder the potential of an otherwise good bill that could help develop our nation's economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and future job creation.

ABC and our members remain committed to building taxpayer-funded projects with the highest standards of safety and quality, and we stand ready for the opportunity to build and maintain America's infrastructure to the benefit of the communities that it will serve. **ABC urges you to vote YES on the Cornyn amendment and will consider the vote a "KEY VOTE" for our scorecard on the 117th Congress.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Swearingen".

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs