



May 30, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker McCarthy, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Leader Jeffries and Members of the U.S. Congress:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 68 chapters representing more than 22,000 member companies, I write to express our support for the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.

The FRA contains commonsense policies that will help our country address the rising debt being passed on to future generations while protecting the full faith and credit of the United States. This proposal also includes key reforms to the federal permitting process that will better serve the construction industry and hardworking American taxpayers.

The FRA delivers significant permitting reforms, including key provisions from the ABC-supported BUILDER Act (H.R. 1577). The FRA's modernization of the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, the first in decades, will limit the scope of this often-abused law that has riddled critical construction projects with lengthy delays. Further, the FRA expands the FAST-41 program to expedite the construction of more energy storage infrastructure projects to better serve our communities.

Additionally, the bill contains much-needed efficiencies, including codifying key elements of the ABC-supported One Federal Decision framework, which will establish lead agency authority, set reasonable time limits for environmental reviews and apply page limits for permitting documents, and allowing for the consideration of an online permitting portal for agencies and applicants to better streamline communications.

ABC appreciates the discussions and debates that have led to this legislation to address our nation's debt limit and avoid harmful financial consequences for the U.S. economy and the American people. We hope that more bipartisan efforts can continue to be taken to address the significant issues facing our great nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Swearingen', written in a cursive style.

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs