



June 30, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national construction industry trade association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 chapter members, I am writing in support of Amendment #178 to H.R. 2, The Moving Forward Act. Should this amendment receive a recorded vote on the House floor, **ABC will consider this a Key Vote on our 116th Congressional Scorecard.**

[Amendment #178](#), offered by Congresswoman Virginia Foxx of North Carolina eliminates the requirement, known as the Davis-Bacon Act that all laborers and mechanics working on federal-aid highway and public transportation projects shall be paid wages at rates not less than the local prevailing wage rate.

This common-sense amendment would uphold the government's responsibility to deliver quality infrastructure improvements at the best possible price to taxpayers. Without sustained finance methods, our system of roads, bridges and tunnels would prevent our job creators and economy from reaching peak efficiency and output. Because of these factors, it is imperative that all levels of government guarantee the general public that their tax dollars are being spent in the most effective way possible.

As administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Davis-Bacon requirements unnecessarily hinder economic growth and stifle contractor productivity by mandating wage rates on federal construction projects that fail to reflect true, market-based rates. Wage rates are often set at or above the union scale, despite the fact that only 13.2 percent of the private construction workforce is unionized nationwide. Inversely, Davis-Bacon wage determinations have also been known to be lower than current market rate, which is equally problematic—and especially detrimental for local contractors.

While lawmakers propose unrealistic and costly-solutions to address our infrastructure crisis (the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the Davis-Bacon Act will raise federal construction costs by \$13 billion between 2015 and 2023), this common sense amendment would increase competition, lower costs and help deliver work to all members of the construction industry – especially during this time of economic recovery.

Again, ABC urges your support of the Foxx amendment and will consider this a Key Vote on our 116th Congressional Scorecard if there is a recorded vote.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs