

Building a Stronger Future: A New Blueprint for Economic Growth

Quick Facts about AGC's Plan to Rebuild the Construction Industry

The Need

- **The recession that never ended for the construction industry.**
 - Twenty months after the recession officially ended, the construction unemployment rate remains over 20 percent, more than double the national average.
 - Construction spending is down 34 percent - nearly \$400 billion - from the market's 2006 peak.
 - The \$135 billion in stimulus construction activity was overwhelmed by overall shrinking demand
- **Addressing the construction crisis will boost our economy now and for decades to come.**
 - Rebuilding the construction industry will create a more globally competitive U.S. economy.
 - There is a direct connection between construction activity and employment levels.
 - Construction investments cut waste and pollution by improving building & infrastructure efficiency.

The Plan

- **Rebuild private construction that once accounted for 76 percent of total construction activity.**
 - Expand net operating loss carry back, repeal the alternative minimum tax, establish tax credits for energy efficiency and purchase of clean construction equipment, make the '01 & '03 tax cuts permanent to preserve private capital, create jobs, and boost investments in real estate and other facilities.
 - Approve pending trade agreements and restore "Fast Track" trade promotion authority to boost demand for manufacturing and shipping facilities, and remove trade barriers that inflate costs.
 - Reject efforts to increase tax on carried interest, eliminate the 3 percent withholding rule, incentivize new equity for real estate projects and extend the payroll tax exemption in 2011.
- **Tackle the nation's growing infrastructure deficit to protect taxpayer liabilities.**
 - Reform the federal transportation program, transition to vehicle miles tax, establish a new National Infrastructure Bank and use "ghost earmark" funds to encourage more public-private partnerships.
 - Boost investments in federal buildings, reform the clean water, flood control and inland waterway navigation programs and establish a self-funding Clean Water Trust Fund.
 - Expand and make permanent the Build America Bonds program and exempt construction from the private activity bond cap.
- **Ease Costly and Time Consuming Regulatory Burdens.**
 - Pass legislation limiting major new regulations, streamline environmental reviews, accelerate licensing of new nuclear power plants and establish a federal multiyear capital budget for public works.
 - Develop a comprehensive national energy plan, encourage green construction, reform transit approvals, avoid government mandated labor agreements and rescind Buy American requirements.

The Cost of Inaction vs. the Benefits of Action

- **An increase construction activity will create many new jobs in communities large and small.**
- **New construction will increase demand for manufactured goods while boosting global competitiveness.**
- **Improved public infrastructure and private buildings will make U.S. businesses more competitive, more efficient and more successful, boosting employment, the economy and overall tax revenue.**

For more information about Building a Stronger Future, visit www.agc.org or call (703) 837-5310.