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AGC of America
THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA
Quality People. Quality Projects.



February 12, 2010

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Resolution of Disapproval Regarding the Decision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Move Forward with Regulating Carbon Dioxide and Other Greenhouse Gases under the Clean Air Act

Dear Senator Murkowski:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), I am writing to support your introduction of a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act regarding the decision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to move forward on regulating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses under the Clean Air Act. AGC is the largest of the nationwide trade associations of building, highway, heavy industrial, and utility construction contractors. AGC's more than 32,000 members are deeply concerned that the EPA's endangerment finding will delay construction activity, undermine economic recovery, and push construction unemployment above its current 24.7 percent rate. Even as AGC's members stand ready to improve our nation's infrastructure and overall energy efficiency, EPA's announcement will make it harder to build a greener future.

EPA's action means that every construction project in America is now likely to be put on standby until federal bureaucrats decide whether or not to grant Clean Air Act permits, making it even harder to construct efficient new buildings, cut polluting traffic congestion, or retrofit existing inefficient buildings. AGC members are also alarmed about the vulnerability of the U.S. economy, and of the construction industry in particular. What was felt as a recession by the rest of the economy has quickly become a depression in the construction industry. Our nation cannot afford regulatory actions which will drastically raise the cost of doing business. At a time when the government is investing billions in construction activity to rebuild our economy, EPA's decision will undermine the Recovery Act, cost thousands of construction workers their jobs, and stifle economic growth for decades to come. EPA's action also comes at a massive administrative burden and cost to EPA and the state agencies that develop air quality plans and administer permits.

Despite some interest groups' attempts to misrepresent the issue as drawing lines "for" or "against" the environment, AGC maintains that the current issue is to decide the most appropriate course of action and that the Clean Air Act is not the appropriate vehicle for regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. Even EPA administrator Lisa Jackson has stated in a press release EPA's preference that Congress act so the agency need not act. EPA's endangerment finding leaves no room for the common sense debate, compromise, and agreement that characterizes Congressional policymaking.

AGC members support your resolution in the hope that common sense prevails over an economically perilous and ill-suited regulatory scheme.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Shoaf".

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director
Government and Public Affairs