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



March 24, 2015

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Chairman
House Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Ranking Member
House Committee on Small Business
B-343C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chabot and Ranking Member Velazquez,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), I thank you for your work on H.R. 1481 and the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1481 (herein “legislative package”) and urge you and your House Small Business Committee colleagues to approve this legislative package at the March 25 markup. This small business legislative package will generally help expand federal government contracting opportunities for small businesses by removing barriers to entry that federal agencies have put forth.

In many cases, the greatest barrier to entry—or competition in general—for small businesses to federal government contracts are federal agencies themselves. From bundling contracts that could otherwise be procured through smaller contracts suitable for small businesses to denying small businesses an opportunity to compete for contracts as teams or joint ventures, federal agencies are taking procurement shortcuts that simply cut out small businesses from government contracts. In other cases, these federal agencies are minimizing competition—and even putting small businesses at risk of default—when they use reverse auctions to procure design and construction services.

This legislative package will help address and diminish these barriers to small business competition for federal contracts. As such, we urge you and your colleagues to vote “Yes” on H.R. 1481 and the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1481.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Christianson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jimmy Christianson
Director of Government Affairs
Federal & Heavy Construction Division
Associated General Contractors of America