



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

June 26, 1998

The Honorable Vince Snowbarger
U.S. House of Representatives
509 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Vince:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Administration's support for project labor agreements. I welcome this opportunity to respond.

For many years, federal agencies, private firms, and state and local governments successfully have used project labor agreements on large construction projects. By fixing labor costs, specifying a source of skilled workers, and eliminating the risk of work stoppages, project labor agreements can help ensure that construction projects are completed on time and on budget.

As you know, on June 5, 1997, President Clinton issued a memorandum to executive department and agency heads reaffirming the current authority of federal agencies and establishing a clear, uniform policy addressing the appropriate use of project labor agreements. This memorandum continues the efforts of the National Partnership for Reinventing Government (NPR) and other executive branch initiatives to implement rigorous performance standards, minimize costs, and eliminate wasteful and burdensome requirements. It encourages departments and agencies in the Administration to consider project labor agreements as another tool, one with a long history in governmental contracting, to achieve economy and efficiency in federal construction projects.

This memorandum does not require federal agencies to use project labor agreements, and it does not exclude potential contractors from bidding on construction project work. Agencies will remain free to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether a project labor agreement would be fiscally prudent. Additionally, all contractors and subcontractors, whether or not they are unionized, will be eligible to bid on projects; and all qualified workers, whether or not they are union members, will be eligible to work on projects covered by project labor agreements.

As we move toward the 21st Century, America must face its economic future with honesty and responsibility. Please be assured that this Administration is committed to improving

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the dynamics of our nation's economic security and providing every American with an opportunity to reap the benefits of a changing economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Gore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "A" being particularly large and stylized.

Al Gore

AG/rar