



JOINT RESOLUTION

- ☞ WHEREAS, taxpayers, qualified businesses and their skilled employees in the construction industry benefit from fair and open competition, and
- ☞ WHEREAS, the U.S. construction industry has tremendous need for skilled and motivated workers and executives from all segments of the population, and
- ☞ WHEREAS, the U.S. workforce is becoming increasingly diversified, and for this nation's construction industry to remain competitive, it must diversify its workforce by attracting more minorities to the industry, and
- ☞ WHEREAS, the vast majority of the U.S. construction workforce does not belong to a union and the vast majority of minority construction craft professionals do not belong to a union, and
- ☞ WHEREAS, the vast majority of the U.S. construction industry's large and small contractors are not signatory to a union and the vast majority of the industry's minority-owned businesses are not signatory to a union, and
- ☞ WHEREAS, construction unions have a history of racial discrimination and a lack of diversity in their membership and leadership, and
- ☞ WHEREAS, many construction unions promote the use of government-mandated project labor agreements (PLAs) on taxpayer-funded projects, which have a well-documented history of needlessly increasing construction costs, reducing competition from qualified contractors, and discriminating against minority-owned businesses and their skilled employees, and
- ☞ WHEREAS, the National Black Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Builders and Contractors believe the destiny of all Americans can be best served by cooperation, reconciliation and following the tenets of free enterprise and a democratic government, and
- ☞ WHEREAS, the National Black Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Builders and Contractors believe business leaders can best preserve these tenets by becoming active in politics and civic affairs, and
- ☞ WHEREAS, the National Black Chamber of Commerce and Associated Builders and Contractors value economic freedom within a free-market economy, with open and fair competition and diverse participants constantly striving to achieve the highest levels of personal and company performance.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT

- ☞ The National Black Chamber of Commerce and Associated Builders and Contractors do hereby consent and agree to oppose government-mandated project labor agreements in local, state and federal construction markets.
- ☞ The National Black Chamber of Commerce and Associated Builders and Contractors share the common belief that any contractor or employee within the construction industry has the fundamental right to chose freely whether to affiliate with any union labor organization, and do hereby consent and agree to work jointly to protect that fundamental right of all Americans.
- ☞ In order to ensure that all contractors have a fair and equal opportunity to bid and win contracts to build federal, state or locally funded construction projects, the National Black Chamber of Commerce and Associated Builders and Contractors do hereby consent and agree to work jointly on political, legal, regulatory and legislative initiatives common to both organizations that will prevent such practices as the use of discriminatory union-favoring project labor agreements and other procurement mechanisms that subvert free and open competition within the local, state and federal public works sector of the construction industry.
- ☞ The National Black Chamber of Commerce and Associated Builders and Contractors look to this joint understanding as an endeavor that will benefit both bodies of memberships and taxpayers by providing access to new opportunities for the entire construction industry, increasing construction activity to rebuild the nation's crumbling infrastructure, reducing construction costs, and strengthening the foundation of the free enterprise system.

Signed this day of , 2014
For the National Black Chamber of Commerce

Signed this day of , 2014
For the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

John Harmon
2014 NBCC Chairman

Dan Brodbeck
2014 ABC National Chairman

Harry Alford
President and CEO

Michael D. Bellaman
ABC President & CEO