July 17, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In February 2009, President Obama issued Executive Order (EO) 13502, which strongly encourages federal agencies, on a case-by-case basis, to consider requiring project labor agreements (PLAs) on federal construction projects exceeding $25 million in total value. We have strong concerns with Executive Order 13502 and believe that rescinding this negative policy is in line with your plans to cut red tape in Washington and across our government agencies.

To create the conditions for innovation and free enterprise, we must promote open competition, efficiency, fairness and equality in government contracting. Mandating, or even encouraging project labor agreements (PLAs) needlessly limits the pool of experienced and qualified bidders able to deliver the best possible product to taxpayers at the best possible price.

Reports have shown that government-mandated PLAs discourage merit shop contractors from bidding on taxpayer-funded construction contracts and drive up costs between 12 percent and 18 percent, which results in fewer infrastructure improvements and reduced construction industry job creation.

While the construction industry continues to thrive because of continued economic growth and improvement and the great benefits from the tax reform package that you signed into law last year, we must strive to remove all unnecessary barriers to economic growth in our efforts to make America great.

Since 1995, 24 states, most of which supported your presidency, have implemented laws or executive orders to ensure fair and open competition and prevent their state and local governments from implementing PLA requirements on state funded construction projects. Ensuring that PLAs are not encouraged in our federal projects will send a clear message to the construction industry that this administration is committed to merit-based, cost-effective projects that provide the best benefit for hardworking taxpayers.

Your administration has made critical strides in supporting the construction industry and we appreciate your dedication to continuing to remove unnecessary red tape and barriers to
economic growth. We look forward to working with you on this critical issue for hardworking Americans and thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Ted Budd
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Frank Lucas
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

Mark Sanford
Member of Congress

David P. Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

Francis Rooney
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

Walter Jones
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress
Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

George Holding
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

Rick Allen
Member of Congress

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho
Member of Congress

Dave Brat
Member of Congress

Brian Babin
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
Member of Congress