



March 20, 2020

U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 members, I am writing to express our support for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that would provide a critical lifeline for construction businesses throughout the country. ABC appreciates the swift action by Congress to address this ongoing health crisis and urges continued bipartisan support to pass this critical bill that will help our nation weather this storm.

The \$300 billion small business emergency economic relief plan that is included in the CARES Act will provide much needed relief to construction businesses impacted by COVID-19 and the recent government requirements to help ensure the public health and will allow them to make payroll and cover expenses to keep their businesses operating and ready to provide their services once this virus is under control. The expansion of 7(a) loans to help provide paid sick leave will also help our businesses with fewer than 500 employees address the paid leave mandate included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201).

The business tax provisions, including a change to the tax treatment of business losses, delays in estimated tax payments, and technical corrections to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would also provide much-needed relief to construction businesses and help them maintain the liquidity necessary to get through this crisis.

As negotiations on the CARES Act continue, it is also critical that no additional paid leave mandates are included in the bill to ensure the viability of our nation's businesses that are working hard to provide paychecks and maintain benefits for their employees while keeping their companies running.

ABC also urges you to consider including language proposed in the draft discussion by Senators Rubio and Collins that would increase the applicable size standard to access SBA 7(a) loans by 300 percent. This would further help ABC companies that are otherwise ineligible for financial support through the CARES Act.

ABC and our members continue to work to ensure that the construction industry remains strong through this troubling time for our nation and appreciates the hard work being done by Congress and the administration to address the needs of construction businesses and workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kristen Swearingen'.

Kristen Swearingen  
Vice President of Legislative & Political Affairs