



July 22, 2024

Mr. Donald J. Trump  
725 Fifth Ave.  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Trump:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 67 chapters representing more than 23,000 member small and large businesses employing millions of construction industry professionals, ABC is proud to announce its endorsement of Donald Trump for president of the United States of America.

After almost four years of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris' anti-competitive, inflationary and divisive policies undermining taxpayer investments in America's infrastructure, ABC is looking forward to working with a president who is willing to welcome all of the U.S. construction industry to rebuild America.

With a skilled labor shortage of more than half a million people in 2024, construction materials prices up 32% since President Biden took office and a politically expedient regulatory regime undercutting the construction industry's ability to deliver the infrastructure America deserves, now is the time for experienced and strong Trump leadership.

For too long, the Biden/Harris administration's policies have locked out nearly 90% of the construction workforce—that's more than 7.3 million workers—simply because they have chosen not to belong to a union. The needless exclusion of qualified small and diverse businesses—and their hardworking employees—from building taxpayer-funded construction projects because they are not affiliated with unions must come to an end. If America is serious about building quality infrastructure with both union and nonunion craft professionals and contractors, this change is necessary, regardless of who the Democratic Party nominates for president.

In contrast, your support for fair and open competition, job creation, small businesses and expanded workforce development initiatives during your first term in office helped ABC members grow their businesses, upskill their workforce and create career-enhancing jobs.

You and your administration supported developing the workforce of the future by establishing the National Council for the American Worker, launching the Pledge to America's Workers, creating Opportunity Zones and signing the FIRST STEP Act, the

most meaningful criminal justice reform in a generation. You created the conditions for all Americans to achieve their career goals.

By signing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, you lowered the pass-through income tax by 10 points and doubled the estate tax exemption. Tax reform, combined with historic regulatory reform, as well as your cabinet, National Labor Relations Board and judicial appointments, gave construction industry small businesses the confidence and the capital to reinvest in their businesses and their people and create millions of new jobs. Historically, construction paid the highest effective federal tax rate of any industry in the U.S. economy.

In addition, your first-term promise to veto the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, legislation that would overturn freedom of choice in all existing right-to-work states, take away a worker's right to a secret ballot and eliminate the ability for workers to pursue independent contracting opportunities—not to mention attempt to implement labor law policies that were rejected by the judicial system, opposed on a bipartisan basis in Congress and/or abandoned by the agencies asked to enforce them—assures ABC that you will protect the merit shop construction industry's employees and small businesses, which are the backbone of America's economy.

It was refreshing to hear Sen. J.D. Vance say during his Republican National Convention speech that you are “a leader who's not in the pocket of big business, but answers to the working man—union and nonunion alike.” As a trade association concerned with the welfare, safety and career dreams of both union and nonunion workers employed by small and large union and nonunion ABC member contractors, ensuring opportunity and prosperity for all is a foundational value of ABC and a shared priority.

ABC looks forward to continuing our productive relationship with the future Trump administration in creating commonsense solutions, where we will work together to create the conditions for all Americans to prosper and achieve their career dreams by addressing issues critical to the merit shop construction industry, including:

- Rolling back exclusionary Biden/Harris administration regulations promoting and mandating project labor agreements on federal and federally assisted construction projects, which effectively lock out almost 9 out of 10 U.S. construction workers from building taxpayer-funded projects because they are not members of unions.
- Providing construction industry small businesses with tax certainty and fairness.
- Enhancing an inclusive, all-of-the-above workforce development strategy where workers and employers have the freedom to choose the best way to develop the

construction industry's workforce through industry-recognized and government-registered apprenticeship programs that provide value as we build America's people and projects.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance during your campaign.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Bellaman



President and CEO  
Associated Builders and Contractors

Buddy Henley



2024 Chair of the ABC National Board  
of Directors  
Owner and President  
Henley Construction Co. Inc.  
Gaithersburg, Maryland