



June 17, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Transportation
& Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Transportation
& Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves and Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 members, I write to express our support for [Amendment 124](#) offered by Rep. Scott Perry of Pennsylvania to H.R. 2, the INVEST in America Act. Amendment 124 would ensure that the projects awarded by H.R. 2 are awarded through fair and open competition and would prevent the inclusion of government-mandated project labor agreements on contracts awarded through H.R. 2.

This amendment would allow all qualified contractors to compete on a level playing field based on merit, experience, quality and safety will help to deliver the highest quality projects at the best cost to taxpayers. ABC urges the committee to report this amendment favorably to ensure that all contracts awarded and financed through H.R. 2 are procured through a fair and competitive bidding process.

Specifically, Amendment 124 would prohibit the Secretary of Transportation, and any construction manager acting on behalf of the secretary with respect to any construction contract awarded and federally financed through H.R. 2, from requiring or forbidding agreements with labor organizations as a condition of winning that contract. It would also prohibit discrimination against or give preference to any bidder, offeror, contractor or subcontractor that voluntarily enters a project labor agreement or otherwise decides not to enter an agreement with labor organizations with respect to that construction project or another related construction.

Congress must ensure that all qualified contractors and workers are able to fairly compete to build and work on these taxpayer-funded jobs. Any infrastructure bill should be free from government-mandated project labor agreements on federal and federally assisted projects, which drive up the cost of construction projects by between 12% and 18% and discourage the employers of more than 87% of the construction workforce from building these projects—primarily effecting small businesses. To deliver the highest quality projects at the best cost to taxpayers, a critical part of any federal investment in infrastructure should include the entire construction industry.

ABC believes that surface transportation reauthorization is critical and will provide a path forward on the essential infrastructure that is needed to restart the American economy. We thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with you to address the critical infrastructure needs of our nation during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs