



Dirk Elsperman, President
Robert C. Lanham, Jr, Senior Vice President
Dan K. Fordice, III, Vice President
Jorge Fuentes, Treasurer
Stephen E. Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer
Jeffrey D. Shoaf, Chief Operating Officer

November 21, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

AGC KEY VOTE: Vote “Yes” on H.R.3055, the *Furthering Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019*

Dear Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and its 27,000 member companies engaged in all facets of the commercial construction industry, I urge you to vote “YES” on H.R.3055, the *Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019*. Although this bill does not provide needed funding certainty necessary for federal construction agencies to undertake new projects in FY 2020, it does undo a scheduled \$7.6 billion rescission of federal highway contract authority. **Because of the positive impact the restoration of federal highway contract authority will have on the construction industry, AGC reserves the right to record your vote as a KEY VOTE for the education of its members.**

If left unaddressed, the \$7.6 billion rescission would adversely impact all 50 states and the District of Columbia by limiting their flexibility to address their transportation needs and possibly jeopardize critical federal investments in the nation’s transportation infrastructure. Given the most recent estimate by the Council of Economic Advisors that suggests each \$1 billion of highway investment creates at least 13,000 direct and indirect jobs in the United States, this rescission would likely have real world employment impacts. For these reasons, AGC appreciates this legislation’s permanent fix to the rescission.

Nevertheless, continuing resolutions (CRs) present difficulties to undertaking other necessary federal infrastructure and facility project investments. Under CRs, federal construction agencies—like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs—cannot move forward with new projects that can help mitigate the impacts of natural disasters through the construction flood protection infrastructure and improve medical facilities that serve our nation’s veterans. As such, we urge you to use the time between the passage of this CR and its expiration to pass appropriations for FY 2020.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation, and I again urge you to vote “YES” on it.

Sincerely,

James V. Christianson
Vice President, Government Relations