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June 12, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

AGC KEY VOTE: Vote “YES” on Corker Amendment (S.A. 2381) to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (S. 2987)

Dear Majority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), I urge you to vote “YES” on Corker Amendment (S.A. 2381) to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (S. 2987). **AGC will record your vote as a “KEY VOTE” for the education of our more than 27,000 commercial construction firm members**, as the amendment would require congressional approval of tariffs imposed for national security purposes, including both the 25 percent tariff on steel and 10 percent tariff on aluminum currently in effect.

Article One of the U.S. Constitution assigns Congress exclusive authority to regulate foreign trade and to levy taxes. Nevertheless, under the Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, Congress yielded to the Executive Branch some of that authority when imports threaten to impair national security. Over the span of many administrations—Republican or Democratic—the Executive Branch has sought to expand its constitutional powers under the auspices of national security, often at the expense of congressional powers. The Corker Amendment would provide a constitutionally responsible check on the powers of the Executive when imposing tariffs for national security purposes.

In addition, the Corker Amendment would require congressional approval of such tariffs imposed within the previous two years, which include those currently in effect for steel and aluminum. These metals are used in a wide variety of construction projects—highways, bridges, buildings and more. In some instances, construction contractors are reporting double-digit steel price increases and mills delaying fulfillment of orders for weeks or months, increasing project costs and delaying project delivery, respectively. Additionally, various reports—on both ends of the political spectrum—forecast the construction industry losing tens of thousands of jobs because of these tariffs. Ultimately, the Corker Amendment ensures that Congress will decide whether these tariffs are justly in the interest of national security and whether the domestic harm they impose is necessary.

Again, **AGC urges you to vote “YES” on the Corker Amendment to the NDAA bill and will record your vote as a key vote for the education of its membership.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Christianson".

Jimmy Christianson
Vice President, Government Relations
The Associated General Contractors of America