May 19, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: AGC Key Vote – Support Perry Amendment on Project Labor Agreements

Dear Speaker Ryan:

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) urges you to support Representative Scott Perry’s amendment to the fiscal year 2017 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The amendment would prevent the use of federal funds appropriated through this bill for contracts that are subject to a project labor agreement (PLA). This amendment will ensure fairness in procurement of federal and federally funded construction projects.

AGC strongly supports free, open, and competitive bidding for all federal and federally funded work among all qualified firms, without regard to their lawful labor policies. Government-mandated PLAs effectively compel both union and open shop contractors to alter their hiring practices, work rules, job assignments, and benefits in order to compete for or perform work on publicly funded projects. This not only constitutes inappropriate government interference with private labor relations, it amounts to an unfair government preference that can significantly impact the cost of public works.

Project owners have many ways to ensure that construction contractors complete their projects in a timely manner, and there is no reliable evidence that project labor agreements improve the performance that an owner can expect in the absence of such an agreement. In addition, project labor agreements can give rise to jurisdictional disputes that would not otherwise occur.

Please vote in support of Representative Perry’s efforts to keep in place the well-settled patterns of labor-management relations in the construction industry and the cost-effective construction of public works.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director
Government Affairs