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January 18, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker, United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

AGC KEY VOTE—Vote “YES” on H.R. 195, Extension of Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018

Dear Speaker Ryan,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), I write to express our support for H.R. 195, the Extension of Continuing Appropriations Act of 2018. The legislation includes an important first step in addressing the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) Cadillac tax and health insurance tax, which would detrimentally impact construction contractors’ ability to provide quality health insurance for their employees. **As such, AGC will record your vote on this continuing resolution as a “KEY VOTE” for the education of our more than 26,000 commercial construction firm membership.**

AGC has long urged Congress to return to regular order and pass the annual appropriations bills before the fiscal year ends. The unfortunate, routine cycle of continuing resolutions prevents AGC contractors from commencing new federal agency construction projects that our nation’s soldiers, veterans and economy sorely need. In addition, the passage of another continuing resolution delays promised funding increases under the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2014—the most recent highway and transit reauthorization law—that are indispensable to rebuilding America’s transportation infrastructure. However, another government shutdown that could disrupt ongoing federal construction projects is absolutely unacceptable and a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars. H.R. 195 will prevent that from happening.

H.R. 195 will also provide essential relief from a number of misguided ACA taxes that would otherwise detrimentally impact construction contractors, especially small business construction contractors. Importantly, the bill delays for another two years the Cadillac tax, an exorbitant 40 percent excise tax on employer-sponsored health coverage whose benefits exceed specific thresholds. Additionally, the legislation would also provide a one year moratorium on the health insurance tax that will increase the cost of health insurance for small business employers, the majority of AGC’s construction contractor membership. That stated, AGC looks forward to working with Congress on permanent repeal of these taxes in the near future.

Again, AGC urges you to vote “YES” on H.R. 195 and will record this vote as a KEY VOTE for the education of its members.

Sincerely,

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