



Mason Contractors Association of America

Advancing the Masonry Industry

JULY 29, 2008

Representative Neil Abercrombie
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-1101

Dear Congressman Abercrombie:

I am writing to urge the expeditious enactment of the 2009 Department of Defense authorization bill. No bill to be taken up by the Congress this year is of a higher priority for the safety and security of the American people or the readiness and well being of our brave men and women in uniform. We look forward to working with you to support your efforts to enact the DOD bill at the earliest possible time.

Among its numerous provisions is new legislative language in Section 2801, *Incorporation of Principles of Sustainable Design in Documents Submitted as Part of Proposed Military Construction Projects*. This provision included in the H.R. 5658, the House version of the DOD bill, calls upon the Secretary of the given military service branch to "submit to the President such recommendations as the Secretary considers to be appropriate regarding the incorporation and inclusion of life-cycle cost-effective practices as an element in project documents submitted to Congress" in connection with military construction projects.

This provision which has strong bi-partisan support in both the House and Senate calls upon the service branches to consider life cycle costs in the selection of construction materials and in the design of military buildings which would include consideration of the durability, sustainability, and low maintenance attributes of construction materials.

If enacted this provision will result in better more durable sustainable facilities for our military personnel and more cost-effective construction and a better long term payback for the American taxpayers.

We look forward to working with you on this important provision and on the entire DOD bill, the passage of which is essential to the long term safety and security of the American people. We applaud your leadership on this matter and thank you for your kind attention to the particular life cycle cost issue in question.

Sincerely,

Jeff Buczkiewicz
Executive Director
Mason Contractors Association of America