



## NECA's Top Issues for the 116th Congress

The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) is the nationally recognized voice of the electrical construction industry. NECA's 4,000 contractors bring electrical power, lighting, and communications systems to buildings and communities across the United States. The following items are NECA's priority issues for the 116th Congress:

### **Invest in Our Nation's Infrastructure**

A robust investment in our nation's infrastructure is essential to keeping NECA's electrical contractors in business, their employees working, rebuilding our nation, and ensuring a sound economy.

- Find a Sustainable Solution to Fix the Highway Trust Fund
- Expand Investment in Federal Facilities
- Modernize our Airports and Air Traffic Infrastructure
- Fully Fund the Clean Water & Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Programs
- Support Long-Term Investment in Waterways Infrastructure
- Build and Upgrade Transmission Line Infrastructure
- Upgrade and Modernize Pipeline Infrastructure

### **Modernize Our Nation's Energy Policy**

The electrical contracting industry specifies, installs and services products related to energy production and efficiency. Deployment of energy efficiency technology and infrastructure has been slow due to marketplace, government and economic barriers. NECA supports a comprehensive energy policy that increases all avenues of domestic production including domestic oil and natural gas exploration as well as clean and renewable energy sources.

- Streamline the Approval Process for Pipeline Infrastructure
- Invest in Clean and Renewable Energy Sources
- Incentivize the Use of Energy Storage Technologies
- Increase the Deployment of Combined Heat and Power and Waste Heat to Power

### **Refine the Tax Code**

High tax rates and a complex tax code hampers our nation's competitive standing and hinders our economic growth. The time and money NECA contractors spend to comply with our existing and complex tax code could be—and should be—spent on growing their businesses and creating jobs.

- Make the Pass-Through Deduction Permanent to Ensure Certainty and Predictability
- Maximize the Value and Integrity of the New Deduction for Pass-Through Businesses
- Repeal the Estate Tax
- Repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax
- Make Remaining Tax Extenders Permanent

## **Reform Our Nation's Healthcare System**

Through the Taft-Hartley multiemployer plan system, NECA members provide excellent health care benefits to the hundreds of thousands that they employ. NECA contractors do so knowing that providing top-of-the-line healthcare is both a sound investment in their workforce and good for business. As work continues on Capitol Hill to reform this nation's complex healthcare system, we urge Congress to work towards reduced health care costs, increased access, and improved quality care.

- Repeal the 40 Percent Excise Tax on "Cadillac" Plans
- Oppose Any "Cap" on Tax Exclusions for Employer-Funded Health Care Programs

## **Empower and Expand Our Workforce**

NECA contractors know that their employees are a key to their success. That is why our electrical contractors invest in the nation's most comprehensive training programs, highly compensate our skilled workforce, and provide quality health care and retirement benefits. To ensure our ability to maintain this high standard and further our employees, reform should solidify these practices and encourage others to do so.

- Authorize Innovative Composite Plans to Reform the Multiemployer Pension System
- Approve Sensible Incentives and Reforms to Encourage Apprenticeship Enrollment
- Limit the Expansion of Publicly-Funded, Short-Term, Industry Approved Apprenticeships in the Construction Industry
- Allow Apprentices to Utilize 529 Education Savings Plans to Finance Ancillary Apprenticeship Costs
- Prevent the Misclassification of Employees as Independent Contractors
- Oppose Efforts to Repeal, Suspend, or Modify the Davis-Bacon Act
- Oppose Limits on the Use of Project Labor Agreements

## **Contracting Reform**

Small businesses are the foundation of our economy. With nearly 80 percent of NECA's membership consisting of small businesses, the need to prevent government waste, reform contracting methods, and simplify the government procurement process remains a top priority. Congress must realize that many solutions to the problems facing our contractors come at no cost to the federal government and provide bipartisan wins in an all too often polarized world.

- Lower Federal Retainage Rates
- Establish a Statute of Repose for Federal Construction Projects
- Reform the Administration and Payment of Change Orders
- Support Bid Listing to Ensure Transparency in Federal Construction
- Prohibit the use of Reverse Auctions for the Procurement of Construction Contracts
- Improve the Design-Build Construction Process
- Ensure Payment Protections for Construction Subcontractors and Suppliers Performing Under Public-Private Partnerships on Federal Work