



January 3, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), welcome to the 116th Congress. Our organization looks forward to working with you on creating constructive and necessary solutions that will not only benefit the electrical construction industry but help create jobs and grow our nation's economy.

NECA is the nationally recognized voice of the \$170 billion electrical construction industry. We represent nearly 4,000 member companies and 119 U.S. chapters in addition to several affiliated international chapters around the world. Our contractors are involved in specialized construction work related to the design, installation, and maintenance of electrical systems nationwide

As Congress enters a new legislative session, NECA urges you to address the following issues that are critical to the continuing recovery of the construction industry during this very important first session of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress:

- Invest in Our Nation's Infrastructure — A robust investment in our nation's infrastructure is essential to keeping electrical contractors in business, their employees working, rebuilding our nation, and ensuring a sound economy. Congress should work on a major infrastructure initiative that accomplishes the following goals:
  - Finding a Sustainable Solution to Fix the Highway Trust Fund
  - Expand Investment in Federal Facilities
  - Funding the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Programs
  - Supporting Long-Term Investment in Waterways Infrastructure
  - Building and Upgrading Transmission Line Infrastructure
  - Upgrading and Modernizing Pipeline Infrastructure
  - Modernizing our Airports and Air Traffic Infrastructure
- Protect and Grow America's 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 and apprenticeship programs, compensate our skilled workforce accordingly, and provide quality health care and retirement benefits. The result is the highest-skilled and most-productive electricians in the nation. We encourage Congress to support efforts to develop the next generation of electricians through existing private sector apprenticeship training programs. At the same time, we oppose efforts to repeal, suspend or modify current law governing the Davis-Bacon Act or the use of project labor agreements.
- Authorize Innovative Composite Plans to Reform Multiemployer Pension System — Congress should allow for the use of a voluntary and flexible pension plan option that would

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

3 Bethesda Metro Center \* Suite 1100 \* Bethesda, MD 20814 \* 301 657 3110 \* 301 215 4500 FAX

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provide a reliable retirement income to employees while ensuring that sponsoring employers are not exposed to uncontrollable financial risks.

- Pass a Comprehensive Energy Bill — The electrical construction industry specifies, installs and services products related to energy production and efficiency. Congress should take long-awaited final action on a comprehensive energy policy bill that would promote the development of all available energy resources, including upgrading and modernizing transmission lines, streamlining the approval process for pipeline infrastructure, incentivizing the use of energy storage technologies, and investing in clean and renewable energy sources.
- Enact Contracting Reform Legislation -- Small businesses are the foundation of our economy. In fact, the typical electrical contracting firm size is classified as a small business, with 80 percent having less than ten employees. NECA supports legislation that would help increase opportunities for small businesses, prevent government waste and fraud, and provide a framework for growth in the construction industry by promoting efficient federal government procurement through simple, no-cost solutions. Measures ensuring payment for change orders, bid listing, and the prohibition of reverse auctions for construction services are all commonsense solutions that should enjoy strong bipartisan support.
- Repeal the Cadillac Tax — Any reforms to our health care system must include the elimination of the Cadillac tax and the tax exclusion for employer-sponsored health insurance should not be capped in any way. Employers who provide quality health insurance to their employees should not be penalized for doing the right thing.

NECA encourages Congress to focus on advancing policies aimed at advancing our economy, creating new jobs, and strengthening our nation's competitiveness. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our expertise and ideas to help achieve these common goals and look forward to continuing to work with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 301-215-4522 or at [marco@necanet.org](mailto:marco@necanet.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marco A. Giamberardino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Marco A. Giamberardino, MPA  
Executive Director, Government Affairs