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October 3, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support Legal Workforce Act, H.R. 3711

Dear Representative Smith:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), I want to thank you for your work on the Legal Workforce Act. This bill would mandate the E-Verify program for all employers with regard to new hires. AGC has long advocated for immigration reform that strengthens national security and functions efficiently and fairly, while also addressing future workforce needs. This bill is a balanced approach to one part of this complex problem, a fair and reliable verification program for employers.

AGC supports H.R. 3711 because construction employers want a reliable method of verifying the work authorization of new hires. They also want to be protected from liability for making a hiring or firing decision based on a government-mandated system and federal preemption to help address the patchwork of conflicting and confusing state and local laws.

Additional priorities for AGC include a safe harbor for employers who use the system, a "knowing" intent standard for liability for both employers and contractors that have subcontractor relationships, and reasonable system response times. Additionally, AGC believes any debarment provisions should follow the process outlined in the Federal Acquisitions Regulations.

AGC recognizes the current immigration system is broken and would like to see other items added as the immigration debate moves forward, including a restructuring of our visa system, improving border security and addressing the undocumented workers already in the U.S. AGC appreciates the effort that has been put into this legislation and looks forward to working with the committee as the bill progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Shoaf".

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director, Government Affairs