



April 19, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader McConnell:

The National Demolition Association (NDA) represents nearly 500 U.S. and Canadian companies that offer standard demolition services as well as a full range of demolition-related services and products. NDA educates members on the latest advances in equipment and services, provides educational programs and tools to stay abreast of regulatory and safety matters and keeps regulators informed about issues in our industry. NDA also increases public awareness of the economic and societal benefits of demolition.

As Congress seeks to restart negotiations on a fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget reconciliation bill, NDA would like to reiterate the demolition industry's priorities on key provisions under consideration. NDA had several concerns regarding provisions in the Build Back Better (BBB) Act introduced last year and urges Congress to improve upon that language in any future budget reconciliation proposal.

In this time of economic uncertainty, NDA calls on lawmakers to reject policies that impose burdensome costs on small businesses and hinder job creation. Congress should instead prioritize legislation that promotes workforce development, reduces burdensome red tape on small businesses, and tackles supply chain challenges in the economy. Below you will find several recommendations from NDA to improve upon the Build Back Better Act and support America's demolition contractors.

Oppose Tax Increases on Demolition Contractors

NDA continues to oppose all tax increases on demolition contractors and urges Congress to reject any changes to the tax code that would have a negative impact on the demolition industry. Small businesses are the backbone of the economy as they employ nearly half of all American workers and account for two-thirds of the net job creation over the past decade. NDA supports a simplified tax code that does not place an unnecessary burden on job-creating demolition contractors. As the economy continues to grapple with challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, now would be the wrong time to raise taxes on America's small businesses.

Oppose Unreasonable Increases to OSHA Fines

The Build Back Better Act contained ten-fold increases to civil penalties levied by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on the employer community. While workplace safety continues to be a top priority for NDA, these proposed increases are unreasonable and could cripple small businesses and lead to job losses across the country. NDA urges Congress to remove these increases from any future proposal.

Oppose Expansion of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

NDA believes a fair and considerate leave policy should be between employers and their employees. For this reason, NDA opposes the expansion of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and other government mandates that eliminate employers' ability to negotiate flexible leave policies with their employees. Government mandates take away employers' and employees' ability to negotiate flexible benefits packages and increase the time, paperwork and cost of complying with labor laws. Congress should oppose these mandates in any future legislation.

Prioritize Workforce Development Initiatives

NDA remains concerned about the growing "skills gap" in the nation's workforce and the negative effects it is having on the construction industry. NDA supports the Perkins Act that provides federal support to state and local career technical education (CTE) programs. NDA also supports proposals to expand vocational training, apprenticeships and work-based learning. Congress prioritize programs that will help alleviate workforce shortages in the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and we look forward to working with Congress in the coming weeks on NDA's FY 2022 budget reconciliation priorities. Please contact NDA's Senior Legislative and Regulatory Coordinator Alex McIntyre at amcintyre@demolitionassociation.com with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lambert
Executive Director
National Demolition Association