

July 29, 2010

TO: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), I am writing to express support for H.R. 5320, the *Assistance, Quality, and Affordability (AQUA) Act of 2010*. This bill is of great importance to American manufacturing companies and workers in communities across America.

In particular, AAM strongly supports the “requirements for use of American materials” contained in *Sec. 1452(a)*. This provision was added during committee markup with unanimous support and with bipartisan praise. Research shows that roughly 18,000 new jobs are created for every \$1 billion in new infrastructure spending, and that manufacturing employment gains increase by 33 percent when domestic content is maximized. Meanwhile, public support for Buy America provisions is overwhelming and extends across party lines, demographic boundaries, and the economic spectrum. [Recent polling conducted for AAM](#) found that:

- 89 percent of likely voters support making sure tax dollars are used to buy America-made materials; and
- 92 percent of likely voters support investing in our infrastructure – using American made materials – to rebuild our old bridges, 100-year old sewer systems, and repair our roads and highways.

Claims that domestic content requirements will incite a trade war are completely unfounded. Domestic content laws comply fully with our international trade obligations and are utilized by numerous foreign governments. In case any disagreement remains on this issue, the bill explicitly states that this requirement “*shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.*”

Passage of the *AQUA Act* – with a strong domestic content provision – would be an important step in the advancement of a robust and comprehensive manufacturing strategy, which will enhance the ability of our manufacturing companies and their workers to compete both here at home and globally.

Sincerely,



Scott Boos  
Deputy Director