

May 25, 2011

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The undersigned organizations strongly support an amendment offered by Rep. Cole to H.R. 1540, the “National Defense Authorization Act of 2012.” This amendment, offered in response to a draft Executive Order which the Obama Administration is considering, would preclude the White House from forcing federal agencies to require entities to disclose their political spending as a condition of participating in the federal procurement process.

The Cole Amendment would help ensure that political spending—or the lack thereof—continues to play no role in federal contracting decisions. The amendment reaffirms the principle, currently embodied in federal procurement laws, that the Executive Branch has an obligation to procure goods and services based on the best value for the American taxpayer, and not on political considerations.

The Cole amendment reaffirms the principle that the Administration cannot enact through executive fiat legislation that Congress has considered and explicitly rejected.

The undersigned organizations urge you to support the Cole Amendment to H.R. 1540.

Sincerely,

60 Plus Association
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Aerospace Industries Association of America
Air Conditioning Contractors of America
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
American Bakers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Moving & Storage Association
American Lighting Association
American Meat Institute
American Petroleum Institute
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Arizona-New Mexico Cable Communications Association
Arkansas State Chamber/Associated Industries of Arkansas
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.
Associated Builders & Contractors Mid-Tennessee Chapter
Associated Builders & Contractors, Rocky Mountain Chapter
Associated General Contractors
Associated Equipment Distributors

Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Bismarck Mandan Chamber of Commerce
Business Coalition for Fair Competition
Construction Industry Round Table
Federation of American Hospitals
Financial Executives International
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Food Marketing Institute
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Heating, Airconditioning and Refrigeration Distributors International (HARDI)
Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
International Dairy Foods Association
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Franchise Association
Johnson City, Jonesborough Washington County Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
Marine Retailers Association of America
Metals Service Center Institute
Mississippi Associated Builders and Contractors
Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors
Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Federation of Independent Business
National Grain and Feed Association
National Propane Gas Association
National Retail Federation
National Restaurant Association
National Roofing Contractors Association
North American Equipment Dealers Association
Nuclear Energy Institute
Ohio Society of CPAs
Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Public Service Research Council
Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce

Retail Industry Leaders Association
Small Business Entrepreneurship Council
Tempe Chamber of Commerce
The Business Council of Alabama