

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FCA Calls for Economic Stimulus to Support Construction

The Finishing Contractors Association joined other trade associations in calling on lawmakers to use part of the proposed stimulus package to fund construction and infrastructure projects. The FCA also joined the associations in a separate request for tax incentives, such as a repeal of the three percent tax withholding on many government projects.

President-elect Obama is calling for a multi-billion dollar stimulus package designed to rejuvenate the U.S. economy.

In two letters to the Obama administration and the 111th Congress, the FCA calls on lawmakers to include construction in the infrastructure portion of the package. The second letter calls for tax incentives. "We ask that you not overlook building construction, alterations, and repairs in the definition of "infrastructure."

FCA's call gained the support of its labor partner, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. General President James Williams signed the letters, becoming one of the first union leaders to join in the call.

FCA Chairman Ed Smith said having the support of the entire construction community is critical to the alleviating some of the economic stress in the country. He said he was pleased to bring the support of the IUPAT.

"We also support the investment in infrastructure, which we believe needs to be a national priority for the safety and well being of all Americans. This needs to be a national priority," Smith said. "We encourage lawmakers to look for projects that provide long-term community benefits, can be started quickly and keep good jobs in the community."

The construction industry normally employs more than 7 million people and brings more than \$ 1 trillion in economic activity each year. However, job losses in construction outpaced those in the general population. In November, specialty construction trades lost 50,000 jobs according to figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For more information and to learn what you can do to show your support, contact Jay Weaver, the FCA Government Affairs Liaison at (703) 448-9001 or via e-mail at jweaver@finishingcontractors.org.

About FCA

The Finishing Contractors Association was created by union contractors seeking to address the unique Labor-Management and business needs of union employers.

All FCA members are signatory to collective bargaining agreements with our labor partner, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. Most members belong to a local FCA Affiliated Association in the United States or Canada. Finishing contractors perform painting, glass/glazing, drywall finishing and floor covering projects for general contractors, developers and owners. You'll find our members working on commercial, industrial and large, custom residential projects in the U.S and Canada.



Amelia Townsend
Director of Communications
(703) 474-4574 mobile
(703) 448-9001 office
(703) 448-9002 fax

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They are union contractors because they demand the best quality in workmanship, productivity and safety for their customers. FCA members know they can achieve the best by partnering with a strong labor union, which provides the skilled workers.

The FCA helps members compete more effectively and retain market share by providing a host of contractor-driven business services to members and affiliates, working with the international union to strengthen the Labor-Management relationship, ensuring a maximum ROI for FCA members' investments in industry trust funds and advocating for union contractors before governmental organizations.