



October 16, 2009

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Senator, State of Ohio
1301 East 9th Street, Suite 1710
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Senator Brown:

I am Lonnie Coleman, President of Coleman Spohn Corporation of Cleveland, Ohio, a mechanical contracting construction business located in the City of Cleveland and employing 95 unionized plumbers and pipefitters. I am also President of my national trade association, the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA), and for many years have directed MCAA's legislative, regulatory and political action program.

Here in Cleveland, I have been President of The Presidents' Council, and served on the boards of Shore Enterprise Bank, MetroHealth Hospital Foundation, The Greater Cleveland Partnership, the Urban League and the United Black Fund. Our company has participated in the changing skyline of Cleveland. We have worked on such projects as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Browns' Stadium, the Cleveland Clinic, and the Cavaliers' Practice Facility to name just a few.

MCAA and our allied union-signatory employer groups in the Campaign for Quality Construction (electrical and sheet metal contracting employers and others - NECA and SMACNA) have worked with your office on several issues over recent years, most recently our long-standing industry leadership position backing badly needed worker misclassification reforms. High-standards employers like we represent don't compete well against firms that misclassify workers, as we pay top-scale collectively bargained wages and benefits that keep industry standards high. That's good for our communities, our employees and businesses, and our customers.

We appreciate your leadership efforts to drive unfair misclassification and worker exploitation out of the market.

But today, I want to ask your help with our Rebuilding America Coalition. MCAA is a member of that broad group of environmental, business, labor, and industry leaders who are linking large-scale private building energy retrofitting as an essential part of environmental, energy, economic, and labor policy progress in the energy policy initiatives moving through Congress. Below is a brief digest of the Coalition's position for your reference.

Representatives of that group met with John McCracken in your office yesterday, and I want to personally thank you for opening up communication with our group and ask you to look over our initiative and consider taking a high profile position backing it.

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I would make time, any time you are back here in Cleveland, or even come to DC (as I am often there on association business these days), to talk over the Coalition's efforts with you. There is a particular aspect of the broad proposal which I am strongly in support of, and that is *the development of green jobs and training and employment opportunities for inner city and disadvantaged young people.*

I have long been a proponent of those types of pre-apprenticeship efforts in my own business, and I am eager to personally (and through my association leadership position) help make sure we develop that successfully at the national level.

Thank you for considering this Senator Brown. And thanks too for the high quality, professional leadership you provide for our State and the Country.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lonnie Coleman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lonnie Coleman
President

Rebuilding America

What is the *Rebuilding America* initiative?

- *Rebuilding America* is a coalition of more than 50 business, labor, and policy groups seeking a national strategy to support a retrofit industry that can renovate 50 million residential and commercial buildings by 2020 – 40% of the nation’s building stock.
- Retrofitting 50 million buildings would create approximately 625,000 sustained full-time jobs, reduce energy use in retrofitted buildings by 30% or more, slash annual household energy bills by \$32 to \$64 billion, and reduce global warming pollution by 20 to 40%.

The advantages of investing in energy efficiency

- A national strategy to capture all cost-effective energy efficiency delivers important economic, environmental, and employment goals. McKinsey estimates that investing in cost-effective energy efficiency would generate \$1.2 trillion in economic benefits by 2020 – a net benefit to cost ratio of almost 2.5 to 1.
- Policies that promote more efficiency lower energy costs for consumers and industry, even as we move to a low carbon economy. According to the ACEEE, the efficiency provisions in the ACES bill would actually save about \$220 per household by 2020 while addressing our climate goals. The savings more than double by 2030. If the EERS provisions are strengthened to 10% by 2020, the U.S. would save consumers \$832 per household per year by 2030 while creating 1 million jobs and avoiding the need for 512 new power plants.
- Investing in energy efficiency create jobs. The ACEEE analysis estimates that a stronger EERS creates 1 million jobs. Achieving the goals of Rebuilding America creates and sustains 625,000 jobs nationwide in the retrofit industry alone.
- More efficiency helps U.S. manufacturers by creating more demand for efficient products and materials, including new insulation, doors, and windows, advanced HVAC, electronics, and more. There are currently over 1,600 domestic manufacturers of Energy Star products. In [state], there are YY Energy Star manufacturers – the [position] most in the country.

Out Asks

- We would like your support for key policies like:
 - A national energy efficiency resource standard of 15% by 2020.
 - Allocating one-third of utility allowances for energy efficiency.
 - An independent green bank initially capitalized with at least \$10 billion.
 - Tax incentives for capital improvements
 - Market standards to ensure high performance
- Join Union President and Company CEO at a press conference rolling out *Rebuilding America*. Help us to figure out the best date in period Oct. 27 – Nov. 5.