



September 28, 2010

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the Associated General Contractors (AGC), and the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), we are writing to express our support for the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2009 (H.R. 847).

Several ACEC, AGC, and ABC member firms joined police officers, firefighters and public officials in responding to the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in New York City on 9/11. Structural engineers assessed the safety of damaged buildings in the devastated area, developed temporary stabilization procedures, assessed the structural stability of the debris pile, designed supports for cranes and other heavy construction equipment, and provided advice to contractors developing procedures to demolish unsafe structures. Construction contractors brought equipment and manpower to perform stabilization, demolition, and debris removal. Most of our members had never worked in conditions like those at Ground Zero, but they used their expertise to provide the assistance emergency responders and federal, state, and city officials urgently needed.

Unfortunately, many individuals who worked at the site or lived in the area later developed health problems that they attribute to environmental conditions at Ground Zero. These individuals were not eligible for monetary redress from the Victim Compensation Fund, and subsequently sued the City of New York and the contractors that worked at Ground Zero, even though the scope of work of these firms did not include air quality issues.

H.R. 847 would address these issues by establishing public health programs to assist affected people. The legislation would also reopen the Victim Compensation Fund to these individuals, providing a means for their legitimate needs to be addressed outside the legal system. In addition, H.R. 847 would limit the liability of contractors that worked at the direction of federal, state, and city officials at the World Trade Center site in any remaining lawsuits.

This legislation achieves a fair balance between addressing health needs and limiting liability for contractors that responded to the needs of federal, state, and city officials in a

dire emergency. We respectfully request your support for H.R. 847 when it comes before the House for a vote this week.


Sincerely,



David A. Raymond
President & CEO
ACEC



Stephen E. Sandherr
CEO
AGC



M. Kirk Pickerel CAE
President & CEO
ABC