



National Parent Teacher Association ? Council of The Great City Schools ? National Education Association
American Federation of Teachers ? American Association of School Administrators ? National School Boards Association
National Association of Elementary School Principals ? National Association of Secondary School Principals
NAACP ? National Association of Federally Impacted Schools ? American Institute of Architects
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education ? National Rural Education Association
Californians for School Facilities

July 24, 2008

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

RE: Senate Supplemental Appropriations : Emergency Public School Renovation and Repair

Rebuild America's Schools is writing to support Appropriations Committee funding for **emergency public school renovation and repairs**. Modern school facilities are an integral part of raising student performance. Funding of \$850 million for a public school renovation and repair program will help local communities provide the modern, safe schools needed to assist students in developing the educational skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century workforce. Modern schools will also benefit student and staff health while helping to improve energy efficiency.

The demands of today's educational programs and services are overwhelming the structural capacity of the average school in America built almost fifty years ago. Many urban and rural schools were built much earlier than the 1960's. Growing communities across our country cannot build schools fast enough to accommodate increasing student populations. Too many of America's children go to school in overcrowded buildings with leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and outdated technology, all of which compromise their ability to achieve, succeed and develop the educational skills necessary for the workforce of the 21st century.

An emergency public school renovation and repair program will help states meet the school facility needs of local communities by providing resources to repair, renovate and modernize America's schools. Equally important, its enactment will stimulate the creation of thousands of new jobs in construction related services.

Funding of \$850 million by the Senate Appropriations Committee for emergency public school renovations and repairs will provide grants to states and local school districts for school repair and modernization construction projects. The federal grants will help states and communities stretch their limited resources to pay for school facility projects that can be started immediately generating thousands of jobs in the construction industry.

School districts in every state can get projects underway quickly if federal financial resources are available to help underwrite the project costs. Funding for

SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Akron, OH
Aldine, TX
Birmingham City, AL
Birmingham Public, AL
Boston, MA
Broward County, FL
Brownsville, TX
Chicago, IL
Cincinnati, OH
Clark County, NV
Compton, CA
Corpus Christi, TX
Dayton, OH
Detroit, MI
Escambia, FL
Houston, TX
Jefferson Parish, LA
Jersey City, NJ
McAllen, TX
Memphis, TN
Miami-Dade, FL
Milwaukee, WI
Minneapolis, MN
Montgomery, AL
Nashville, TN
Newark, NJ
New Orleans, LA
New York, NY
Norfolk, VA
Oklahoma City, OK
Omaha, NE
Pharr-San Juan-Alamo, TX
Philadelphia, PA
Providence, RI
Richmond, VA
Rochester, NY
Savannah-Chatham, GA
St. Louis, MO
St. Paul, MN
Toledo, OH
Tulsa, OK
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an emergency public school renovation and repair program will provide federal support for the renovation and repair of schools, while leaving decision making at the local level.

School construction projects will generate thousands of jobs in the construction industry, and among the many suppliers, ranging from architects and engineers to roofing contractors and other workers, who design and build our nation's schools.

Rebuild America's Schools asks the Senate Appropriations Committee to provide \$850 million in funding for public school infrastructure through an Emergency Public School Renovation and Repair program. Modern, more energy efficient and greener schools will improve the learning environment for students, and enhance the workplace for students, teachers and school personnel. Most importantly, modernized schools will advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state.

Thank you.

American Association of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
American Institute of Architects
American School Counselor Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Association for Career and Technical Education
Building and Construction Trades Department AFL-CIO
Californians for School Facilities
Council of Educational Facility Planners International
Council of The Great City Schools
International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Education Association
National Middle School Association
National Parent Teacher Association
National School Boards Association
National Science Teachers Association
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education
Sheet Metal Workers International Association
State of Delaware Department of Education
State of Michigan Department of Education
State of New Jersey Department of Education
United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters
Wayne-Resa County, Michigan

