



REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

A National Coalition

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Birmingham Public, AL
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Milwaukee, WI
Minneapolis, MN
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Omaha, NE
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Philadelphia, PA
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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

May 1, 2009

The Honorable George Miller, Chair
House Education and Labor Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

Rebuild America's Schools is writing to express our support for the **21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 2187)** sponsored by Congressman Chandler, Miller, Kildee, Loeb sack, and other members. The modern, safe and technologically advanced schools of the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act will help local communities increase opportunities for all students to develop the educational skills necessary to achieve and succeed in the 21st century workforce. Modern energy efficient schools will also benefit student and staff health. We ask that the House Education and Labor Committee pass this much needed legislation which will authorize a grant program to modernize, renovate and repair public schools.

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 Too many of America's children go to school in overcrowded buildings with leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and outdated technology all of which compromises their ability to achieve, succeed and build the educational foundations necessary for the workforce of the 21st century.

The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act will assist states and local communities in meeting these staggering needs through federal grants to local school districts for energy efficient school modernization projects. The Federal Government would provide \$6.4 billion in grants to states and local school districts at a time when significant fiscal relief for local school districts is needed. The federal grants will help states and communities stretch their limited resources to pay for additional school facility projects and essential education programs.

H.R. 2187 will assist states in meeting the school facility needs of local communities by providing resources to repair, renovate and modernize America's schools. It will stimulate the creation of more than 100,000 new jobs. These jobs will be generated in the construction industry among suppliers, ranging from architects and engineers to roofing contractors and other construction workers who modernize, renovate and repair schools.

The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public Schools Facilities Act under consideration by the House Education and Labor Committee creates a program that provides federal support for the renovation, repair and building of schools, while leaving decision making about the schools at the local level. The Act provides a federal investment to help renovate, repair and modernize thousands of public schools. School districts in every state have school renovation and repair projects that can be underway very quickly if federal financial resources are available to help underwrite the project costs.

Rebuild America's Schools asks that the House Education and Labor Committee approve **The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act**. Modern, more energy efficient, green and better schools will improve the learning environment for students, enhance the workplace for students, teachers and school administrators and most importantly they will advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Canavan, Chair