



May 6, 2009

Chairman George Miller
Ranking Member Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
House Education and Labor Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon:

On behalf of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), representing approximately 30,000 middle level and high school principals, assistant principals, and aspiring school leaders from across the United States, I urge you to continue supporting and pass Congressman Chandler's 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 2187).

This legislation would provide \$6.4 billion in grants to states and local school districts for school construction, renovation, and modernization at a time when significant fiscal relief for local school districts is badly needed. These grants will help states and communities stretch their limited resources to pay for additional school facility projects and essential education programs. H.R. 2187 also encourages schools to become more energy efficient and environmentally friendly, while keeping decision-making at the local level. Additionally, the enactment of this legislation will stimulate the creation of more than 100,000 new jobs in construction related services.

The demands of today's educational programs and services are overwhelming the structural capacity schools in America – many of which were built nearly fifty years ago. 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 Too many of America's children go to school in overcrowded buildings with leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and outdated technology, all of which compromises their ability to achieve, succeed, and build the educational foundations necessary for the 21st century workforce.

NASSP urges you to support passage of this critical legislation. Modern, more efficient schools will improve the learning environment for students, enhance the workplace for school administrators, teachers, and other school staff, and most importantly will help advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state.

Sincerely,

Gerald N. Tirozzi
Executive Director