

NEWS RELEASE

Associated Builders and Contractors

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ABC ENDORSES DUNN-TANNER BILL TO PHASE OUT DEATH TAXES

(Washington, D.C.)—February 25, 1999—Associated Builders and Contractors announced today its strong support for the bi-partisan Estate and Gift Tax Rate Reduction Act, H.R. 8, which would phase out death taxes by 2010.

“Death taxes today allow the IRS to wage a full-scale assault on family-owned companies,” said Associated Builders and Contractors President David Bush.

The bill, introduced today by Reps. Jennifer Dunn (R-Wash.) and John Tanner (D-Tenn.) would phase out death taxes by 2010 in 5 percent increments.

Bush said passage of the legislation “will help restore the long-term strength of the American family business, which has been under duress as a result of the current tax structure.”

He said the death tax has long been a threat to family-owned construction companies and the jobs they provide. “ABC believes that these businesses are worth preserving for the next generation.” Death taxes not only jeopardize the survival of family-owned construction companies, they also divert funds to estate planning costs that could be invested in the business and its employees.

“We must continue efforts to remove this economic disincentive, Bush said. “We applaud the representatives who have introduced this common-sense tax reform and will work for its passage.”

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ABC is a national association representing more than 20,000 merit (open) shop construction and construction-related firms in 83 chapters across the United States.