



REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

A National Coalition

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
Ysleta, TX

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American Federation of Teachers □ Council of The Great City Schools □ National Parent Teacher Association
National Education Association □ American Association of School Administrators □ National School Boards Association
IUOE □ 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

May 15, 2016

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member, The Education and the Workforce Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Scott:

Rebuild America's Schools is writing to support the Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017 for the long term improvement of public school facilities and the provision of grants and tax credit bonds to support the financing of public school building modernization.

The national need to modernize schools is extensive. A 2013 Center for Green Schools Report *State of Our Schools* estimates that schools are facing \$271 billion in deferred maintenance costs. The Report estimates that the cost to bring schools into good repair and to address modernization needs is \$542 billion over the next ten years. This is beyond the capacity of state and local community resources.

The Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017 invests in a grant program to create over 1.9 million jobs to improve health and safety conditions impacting students and staff. It also builds upon the authorized Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) originally authorized by Congress in 1997. QZAB bonds are used efficiently and effectively by local school districts in your home state and in states across the nation to renovate, repair and modernize schools and classrooms to help students learn, achieve and succeed. But, school facility modernization needs far exceed available QZAB allocations.

The proposed grant program with the QZABs and the proposed Qualified School Infrastructure Bonds address a critical national need to assist local school districts to provide safe, modern, healthy, energy efficient schools for our students. The financial support will repair, renovate and modernize America's schools and stimulate and create local jobs.

Federal support provided to public school facilities through the grants and tax credit bonds in the Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017 is a critical and important element in providing America's students modern, technologically and energy efficient schools and classrooms where they can develop the educational skills necessary to achieve and succeed in the 21st century workforce.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Canavan
Chair