



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 20, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Members Leahy and Granger:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, and our member companies, thank you for enacting the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act” (P.L. 116-159), which has kept federal agencies operating through December 11 and avoided a harmful and needless government shutdown.

We also appreciate and strongly support your ongoing work to complete appropriations bills and fully fund the Federal government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2021 before the December 11 deadline. Removing funding uncertainty will maintain full federal operations and provide much-needed stability for agencies and their missions.

As you focus on those appropriations bills, we also urge you to include a further extension of the Section 3610 authority from the CARES Act (P.L. 116-134). Section 3610 provides authority for agencies to cover from existing funds certain contractor costs and keep key personnel and skilled workers in a ready state during COVID-19. This authority continues to be used by many federal agencies to maintain the capabilities and workforce necessary to meet mission needs and protect our national security and other vital programs. With the growth of COVID-19 cases, we urge you to include in any FY21 regular or supplemental appropriations bill, or any other available bill, a prudent and timely further extension of Section 3610 through September 30, 2021, the end of the fiscal year.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to continuing to work with your Committees on this matter.

Yours respectfully,

AFCEA International
Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
CompTIA
The Center for Procurement Advocacy (CPA)
Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA)
National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)
Professional Services Council (PSC)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce