

ABA REPRESENTATIVES VISIT CONGRESS

Earlier this month representatives from the Arizona Builders' Alliance visited with members of Congress on Capitol Hill. The group made up of Rob Caylor, Caylor Construction Company, Rob Lafferty, RML Electric, Tom Dunn, Tucson ABA Director and Mark Minter, Executive Director. Each year the Associated Builders and Contractors host a legislative conference called LegCon. This conference features political speakers and updates from national staff on current issues of concern to the industry. After attending LegCon we made our way to Capitol Hill and meet with members of the Arizona delegation to share our concerns on a number of national issues. Special thanks to the following elected officials and their staff for the time and courtesy extended to us.

- Senator Jeff Flake
- Congressman Matt Salmon
- Congressman David Schweikert
- Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick

During the visits we presented Salmon and Schweikert with Eagle awards from ABC as true defenders of Merit Shop principles. During our visits we highlighted our current concerns and discussed the following issues with the representatives and their staffs.

Immigration Reform - We stressed the need for comprehensive reform that includes a temporary guest worker programs attune to the needs of the American economy. We opposed current language that severely limits the construction industry from hiring temporary guest workers.

End Government-Mandated PLA's - Noting that Arizona and 17 other states ban government mandated PLA's we requested that they support HR 436 which would prohibit PLA mandates on federal and federally assisted construction projects.

Ending Political Favoritism at the NLRB - We supported full Senate confirmation of future NLRB appointments and limiting funding for radical anti-business policies.

Tax Reform - Noting that most contractors are set up as corporations that pass taxable income through to the owner(s) we discussed the negative impact of higher individual tax rates and lower corporate rates.

A special note of thanks to Rob Caylor and Rob Lafferty for taking the time, trouble and expense to attend this meeting. The ability to have members who really are "in the trenches" everyday adds greatly to the discussion we had with elected officials. Thanks guys!