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July 16, 2009

The Honorable George Miller, Chair  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Californians for Schools Facilities (CSF) is a statewide coalition working to build federal support for state and local efforts to modernize our public schools. We are writing today in support of H.R. 3221 the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act which includes the provisions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act.

Multiple studies have shown that safe and modern schools are linked to improved academic performance, teacher retention, and job creation. California has an over \$9 billion need for new construction funds as well as over \$3.4 billion in modernization needs. School construction jobs will generate thousands of jobs in construction and related industries across California.

The proposal before your committee would establish a formula grant program to award funds to local school districts for school construction and modernization. School districts in California would be able to use these grants immediately for repairs, renovations, environmental improvements and for developing energy efficient systems in schools. This funding to help provide modern and energy efficient schools of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will help California communities increase opportunities for all its students.

CSF greatly appreciates your leadership in education and your support for legislation designed to help local communities undertake projects to renovate, repair and modernize schools. A federal commitment to support school facilities recognizes the national imperative that the academic success of our students represents the economic and political future of our country.

We ask that the House Education and Labor Committee pass this much needed legislation that includes a grant program to modernize, renovate and repair public elementary and secondary schools and community colleges.

Thank you again for your work on behalf of students, schools and teachers in California and across the nation.

Sincerely,



Anna Ferrera  
Executive Director