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

Dear Representative Miller:

Californians for Schools Facilities is a statewide coalition working to build federal support for state and local efforts to repair and modernize our public schools. Multiple studies have shown that safe and modern schools are linked to improved academic performance, teacher retention, and job creation. We are writing today in support of HR 3021, the 21st Century High Performing Public School Facilities Act and the proposed Loeb sack-Kildee Committee substitute.

In recent testimony before the House Education and Labor Committee, Kathleen Moore, Director of the School Facilities Planning Division for the California Department of Education, spoke to California's efforts to meet the state's school facility needs.

"California has a staggering \$9 billion need for new construction funds as well as \$3.4 billion in modernization needs. We believe successful federal facilities programs such as the current QZAB program and the 2001 Federal Repair and Renovation Programs serve as models for the type and quality of federal investment that is necessary to ensure that all students have safe and modern facilities that not only support but enhance student learning and achievement."

The Loeb sack-Kildee 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 for repairs, renovations, environmental improvements and for developing energy efficient systems in schools.

As Congress works to stimulate the economy through domestic initiatives and programs designed to generate jobs, Californians for School Facilities appreciates your efforts to include school facilities as part of any additional economic stimulus legislation. 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.

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. School construction jobs will generate hundreds of jobs in construction and related industries across California.

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

Sincerely,

Anna Ferrera
Executive Director

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