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April 29, 2008

Committee on Education and Labor  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the California Small School Districts' Association (CSSDA), representing more than 500 California school districts and county offices of education, we thank you for your consideration and urge your support of HR 3021, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century High-Performing Public School Facilities Act and the Loeb sack-Kildee Education and Labor Committee substitute.

California's small and rural school districts need help with aging schools. This bill, and its substitute, will provide this needed help. California's small and rural school districts do not have high property values for school bonds, nor do they have access to developer fees for school facilities. We support the Loeb sack-Kildee substitute that would ensure that money is passed down to districts via a formula grant and ensure that every district receives a minimum grant of \$5,000. While these grants may not be enough to fund an entire project, they provide critical seed money to get construction and renovation projects moving.

Once again, we support the Committee's action on HR 3021 to provide support to school districts efforts in school construction, renovation and repair and urge your support of this bill as it is considered by the Committee.

Sincerely,

David L. Walrath  
Legislative Advocate

DLW:ad

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