



Design-Build Institute of America
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November 23, 2021

The Honorable Bob Menendez
Chairman
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James E. Risch
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Menendez and Risch,

I am writing regarding H.R. 4350, the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. Specifically, I'm writing in support of Sec. 7211 (and the associated definition of design-build in Sec. 7214) regarding the construction of diplomatic posts.

This language would encourage greater use of design-build project delivery in the construction of U.S. diplomatic posts by requiring the State Department to notify the relevant Congressional Committees when a project delivery method other than design-build is used in the design and construction of such posts. It is important to note, this language would not mandate the use of design-build and the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) would not support such a mandate. We believe firmly that every project must be assessed independently to determine the appropriate project delivery method. However, when design-build is utilized in accordance with best practices, it delivers outstanding projects and outcomes.

Design-build is a method of project delivery in which one entity – the design-build team – works under a single contract with the project Owner to provide design and construction services. Early collaboration, and design-build's inherent ability to innovate and adapt, have shown time and again that design-build delivers timely, cost-efficient projects that also focus on design excellence, sustainability and life-cycle costs. In fact, [research shows](#) that design-build out-performs other delivery systems on schedule, construction and delivery speed, cost and quality.

DBIA is a non-profit membership organization comprised of professionals from across the entire design and construction spectrum including architects, engineers, contractors and, of note, public sector officials who are charged with the effective use of taxpayer dollars to assure successful projects.

Again, DBIA encourages the retention of the House NDAA language on contracting methods in capital construction. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If I can answer any questions or assist in any other way, please either let me know or Louis Jenny at ljenny@dbia.org or 202-251-3957.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Washington".

Lisa Washington, CAE
Executive Director/CEO