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Building Jobs Coalition hails the signing of jobs bill

Measure provides much-needed boost to Minnesota's design and construction industry

ST. PAUL, Minn. With today's signing of the jobs stimulus bill (House File 2695), thousands of unemployed Minnesotans in the design and building industry can look forward to returning to work. "The members of the Building Jobs Coalition have worked hard to secure passage of legislation that will put Minnesotans back to work," said Dave Semerad, Building Jobs Coalition tri-chair. "By enacting this legislation, the Legislature and Governor have shown their commitment to helping our industry by giving us the boost we need to create jobs."

Key components of the legislation include historic renovation tax credits, small-business investment tax credits, tax increment financing flexibility, and energy efficiency improvement measures. These measures will effectively leverage public and private investment in projects throughout the state. Based on the success of similar measures in 30 other states, the historic renovation tax credit alone is estimated to create 1,500 jobs per year.

"This bill not only stimulates investment in building projects in Minnesota, it also signals an investment in the Minnesotans who are employed by the design and building industry," said Building Jobs coalition Tri-Chair Harry Melander. "While it does not accomplish all of the goals in the Building Jobs Coalition agenda, we know that as a result, many of our fellow Minnesotans will be going back to work."

"Passage of the jobs bill is a major step forward for an industry that has seen unemployment in some trades rise to over 50 percent," said Beverly Hauschild-Baron, Building Jobs Coalition tri-chair. "We look forward to continued partnership with leaders in the House, Senate and the administration to find more ways to stimulate activity in the design and building industry."

About the Building Jobs Coalition

The Building Jobs Coalition is a diverse group of contractors, building trades, architects, engineers, economic developers and public officials, committed to investment in Minnesota's design and building industry through strategic legislation and public policy. The Building Jobs Coalition is chaired by Dave Semerad, Associated General Contractors of Minnesota; Harry Melander, Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council; and Beverly Hauschild-Baron, American Institute of Architects Minnesota.

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