



Construction Industry Round Table

Legislative News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

3/18/09 – **Business Coalition Questions Direction of Obama's Budget**

In these times of economic stress and uncertainty the Tax Relief Coalition (TRC), a business alliance of over a thousand organizations, has written Congress to question the massive taxing and spending increases that seem to fly in the face of steps to support a private sector recovery. In the past most of the business community, including TRC of which CIRT is a member, have refrained from getting involved in Congressional budget debates. However, due to the breathtaking scope of the Obama budget proposal and its trillions of dollars of proposed tax increases necessitated a decision to weigh into the process. In a letter to all members of the Senate and House of Representatives, TRC points out that “instead of focusing on the nation’s number one priority – the economy – the Administration has announced the most sweeping expansion of government in decades [e.g. overhauling the health care system, Medicare, energy policy, and a cap-and trade system to reduce carbon emissions, etc.]. With the fiscal 2010 budget proposal, President Obama is attempting not merely to expand the role of the federal government, but to put it in a dominant position over the economy.” TRC opposes this approach and firmly states “we believe that our free enterprise system is capable of pulling the country through this economic crisis.” The letter concludes by noting that there is no way to sustain the massive government spending growth in the future without additional taxes that will cripple the economy and any economic recovery that can be mounted.