



DBIA letter of  
support

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From: Tuttle, Ilene [BOARD]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 10:29 AM  
To: Campbell, Bonnie J.; Connolly, Jenny; Downer, Robert; Evans, Jack B.; Gartner, Michael; Harkin, Ruth; Lang, Craig A.; Miles, David; Vasquez, Rose; Fry, Bobbi; Novak, Kristin; Waters, Sally  
Cc: 'Baumert, Andy [GOV R]'; Evans, Thomas A [BOARD]; 'Racki, Joan [BOARD]'; 'Sayre, Patrice [BOARD]'  
Subject: FW: DBIA letter of support

On behalf of Andy Baumert:

Letter of support attached for your information.

Ilene Tuttle  
Executive Assistant  
Board of Regents, State of Iowa  
11260 Aurora Avenue  
Urbandale, IA 50322-7905  
Phone: 515/281-6425  
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February 6, 2008

Mr. Andy Baumert  
Interim Executive Director/  
State Relations Officer  
Board of Regents-State of Iowa  
11260 Aurora Avenue  
Urbandale, Iowa 50322

**RE: Design Build Legislation**

Dear Mr. Baumert:

On behalf of the Design Build Institute of America (DBIA) - Iowa Chapter and the DBIA Mid-American Region, we offer this letter of support for the Design-Build process in the public sector and to inform you of local resources available to optimize the implementation of Design-Build procurement in Iowa.

We have the understanding, should the Board of Regents decide to move forward on Thursday, there would be legislation proposed allowing Design-Build and Construction Management-at-Risk (CMR) procurement and delivery systems for qualifying Regents projects in excess of ten million dollars. Design-Build and CMR have proven to be valuable tools for public facilities managers for some time. We encourage the Board of Regents to adopt these innovative methods based on their proven track record for cost savings and faster schedules for the taxpayers and end users. In the increasingly competitive world that major research universities find themselves, we believe higher value-added integrated design and construction methods must be adopted in order to remain world class institutions.

There is no question the competitive low-bid process is a well understood method of procuring construction, and consideration of alternative procurement and delivery systems will understandably cause some trepidation. The Board of Regents is wise to exercise caution in its considerations; however, we encourage the Board to adopt policies that allow facilities managers the option to use procurement and delivery systems "right for the project," rather than impose an artificial floor of ten million dollars. By doing so, the risk of unsuccessful projects will be greatly mitigated.

Mr. Andy Baumert  
Page Two

For example, if a research professor needs a one million dollar renovation to a laboratory over the summer in order to be more competitive for sponsored research or to recruit top graduate students, design build procurement offers the best chance to meet such a demanding completion schedule. If the current artificial floor were to remain in place, the tools necessary to recruit or retain this professor may not be available.

We also understand the necessity for the Board of Regents to be good stewards of taxpayer and donor money. Many public projects across the United States, including Camp Dodge in Johnston, have used competitive design-build best value procurement to ensure taxpayer value. DBIA is willing and able to assist in the development of a process that promotes taxpayer value without sacrificing the advantages of intelligent, efficient, and cost-effective facility solutions offered by design build procurement and delivery.

The Design Build Institute of America has a vibrant Iowa Chapter led by a strong steering committee from many of Iowa's leading companies. The Iowa Chapter also boasts the strongest student chapter in the nation led by ISU professor Kelly Strong in the Civil Construction and Environmental Engineering Department.

The Iowa chapter of DBIA is a member of the Mid-American Region ([www.dbiamar.org](http://www.dbiamar.org)) based out of Kansas City, home of the Region's Executive Director Oretta Smith. The DBIA National offices ([www.dbia.org](http://www.dbia.org)) are in Washington DC... DBIA can provide knowledge and resources at the local, regional and national level to assist with both policy development and public education required to make design build a success in Iowa. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Sincerely,



Bill Woodruff, DBIA LEED AP  
President of DBIA Iowa Chapter  
Woodruff Construction  
1920 Philadelphia St # 102  
Ames, Iowa 50010

Jeff Turk, DBIA  
President of DBIA Mid-America Region  
Walton Construction  
3252 Roanoke  
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

CC: Walker Lee Evey –President and CEO DBIA National  
Oretta Smith –Executive Director Mid-America Region

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Steve Grasso, AIA-Neumann Brothers –Secretary Treasurer  
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Mike Shindelar-Woodcraft Millwork  
Brian Harry, Iowa Student Chapter President