Chairman Tiberi and Members of the Subcommittee:

Rebuild America’s Schools, a national coalition, is writing to express our support for the extension of the Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) as well as the Qualified School Construction Bond programs. QZABs enacted in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and extended with bipartisan support in subsequent Congresses allow school districts to modernize school facilities and to improve curriculum. QZABs are a cost effective program being used by school districts in every state to renovate, repair and modernize school buildings and classrooms. School districts in Michigan, Ohio, Texas, California and every state from Maine to Florida to Alaska and Hawaii have used QZABs to modernize classrooms and schools. The federal tax credits provided to finance QZABs are a small federal investment improving America's school facilities where students can better succeed. Rebuild America Schools also supports the extension of the Qualified School Construction Bond program which has benefited local school districts in forty-nine states.

QZABs and QSCBs are helping school districts provide modern, more energy efficient, green and better schools, improving the learning environment for students and enhancing the workplace for students, teachers and staff. Equally important, local jobs are generated as modern schools advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state.

Rebuild America’s Schools asks that the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds and Qualified School Construction Bonds supporting school modernization and job creation be included among tax extension provisions considered by the House Ways and Means Committee this year.

Rebuild America’s Schools appreciates the Committee’s consideration of these comments.