

**Remarks to National Electrical Contractors Association  
Political Leadership Council Awards Dinner  
September 20, 2007**

I'd like to thank the National Electrical Contractors Association, the Political Leadership Council, and NECA's 70,000 electrical contracting firms on behalf of your 770,000 electrical workers for the 2007 Legislative Leadership Award.

This joint-award means a lot to me, as I'm sure it does to Kendrick Meek, my partner in the House in leading the charge against the 3% withholding burden. But more than that, the great work of NECA and its member companies as part of the larger Government Withholding Relief Coalition, have contributed so much to our efforts to have the 3% withholding burden repealed.

In the House we started off the 110th Congress with the introduction of the Meek-Herger 3% Withholding Repeal, H.R. 1023. From there, thanks to your efforts, we have added 197 cosponsors to the House ranks of members willing to help us work for repeal. The sheer importance of this issue has attracted the attention of everyone who contracts with governments at all levels for goods and services, from electrical contractors to defense contractors and local governments that will be responsible for bearing the cost of implementing this ill-thought out provision.

Then, earlier this summer we had a breakthrough on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, on which both Kendrick and I serve. The Committee marked-up legislation that included a provision to delay for one-year the implementation of the 3% withholding provision - from 2011 to 2012. The fate of this bill is not yet determined, and it still faces an uphill battle in the U.S. Senate. Although it's not full repeal by a long-shot, the fact that the Committee has taken notice of this issue is incredibly significant.

Despite all the success we have seen on this issue in the House, however, we are still encountering difficult resistance in the Senate. For this reason it's critical that we focus our efforts on that body, and ask you and your members to make every effort to reach out to Senators from your state. They need to be convinced of the merits of repeal. And the best way to do this is to make phone calls, send letters and, when you are in town, sit down and let your individual Senators know how exactly 3% withholding will impact your bottom line. They need concrete examples of how this provision will affect your company, your workers and how it will increase costs for your customers.

Again, thank you for this great honor, and I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to push for full repeal of the 3% withholding burden in Congress!