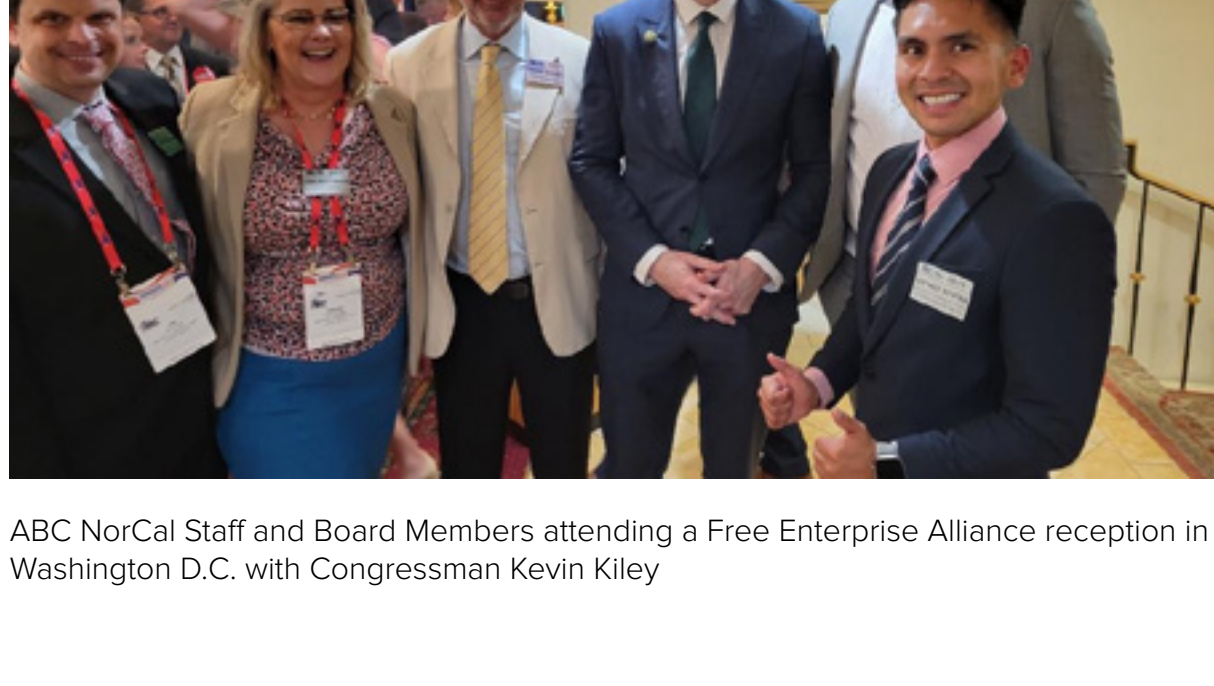


POLITICAL ADVOCACY

Advocacy Summer Part I – A Momentous June



ABC NorCal Staff and Board Members attending a Free Enterprise Alliance reception in Washington D.C. with Congressman Kevin Kiley

Learning and Living Our Bylaws in Everyday Life

1. What does it mean to be an advocate for the merit shop movement?

2. Why do we fight for the voices of our contractors?

3. How can we be effective in what we do?

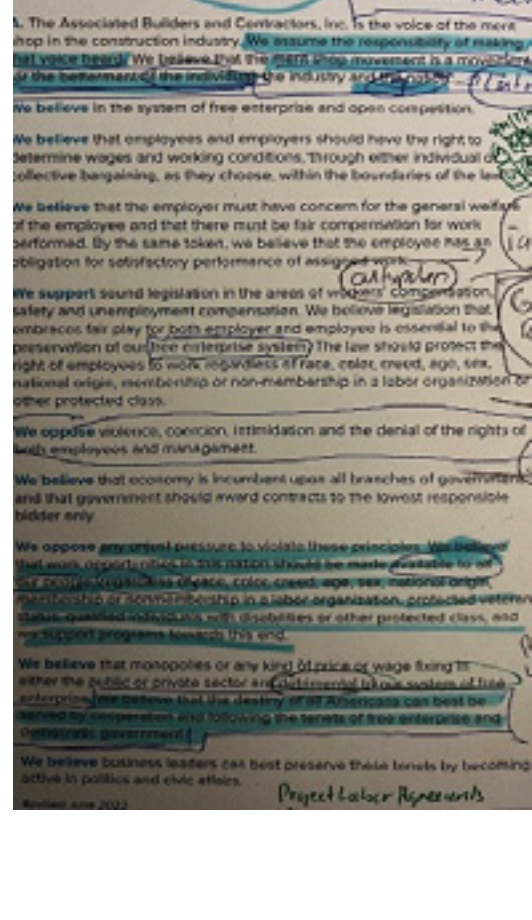
These are the questions I have found myself pondering as I returned from a fruitful, first legislative conference in our nation's capital. On the last day of the conference, I attended an inclusion, diversity and equity summit facilitated by ABC National President and CEO Mike Bellaman, which answered the following questions through a simple exercise of reading our Article I bylaws.

1. To be an advocate for the merit shop movement means **to protect and preserve our free enterprise system, and to recognize that we are part of a larger cause for the betterment of the individual and the nation.**
2. We fight for the voices of our contractors because we are our **nation's job creators, opportunity seekers and makers, and community builders. Our mission is to defend them in the midst of the daunting forces of violence, manipulation, corruption and coercion.**
3. We can be effective in what we do by **recognizing that it is our civic duty as business leaders to take an active role in politics and civic affairs.**

Ever since then, I start my days reciting this passage, studying its message, discerning its meaning to me, and using it as a guide in the daily grind of advocacy in a state that has been hostile to our cause. This gives me hope and motivation that our cause is right, our fight is just and our message is sound. In the face of insurmountable odds, freedom and opportunity will always win.

I am more empowered than ever to take the fight to those who seek to destroy us. All I need is your continued help and support when the time arises. I understand that, as contractors, your schedules are dictated by the whims of the market. However, I urge you, when you have a small moment of solitude, to please reflect upon why we are all members of the Associated Builders and Contractors, and pledge to uphold these values in all facets of everyday life.

Our freedom and our nation depends upon it.



Debbie, Joe, Mark Kirkes, Andrew Vasko and Matthew meeting with Congressman Ami Bera

Friends and Foes: Notes from Our Nation's Capital

On June 12–June 15, ABC National hosted its annual legislative conference in Washington D.C. Thank you to Board Members Andrew Vasko and Mark Kirkes, who joined Debbie, Joe and me in meeting with our Northern California congressional delegation.

We had ten in person meetings with the following members of Congress and their staff:

- Congressman Kevin Kiley
- Congressman Ami Bera
- Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
- Congressman Josh Harder
- Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
- Congressman Jim Costa
- Congressman Eric Swalwell
- Congressman John Duarte
- Congressman Tom McClintock
- Congresswoman Barbara Lee

With our friends, such as Congressmen John Duarte and Tom McClintock, it was an opportunity to reinforce our connections, fortify our relationships and remind them that we have their backs in California. With those we have had disagreements with over our policy priorities, it was a chance to voice where we could find commonalities and how we can work together to advance the cause of the merit shop in an era of divided government.

The goal of this legislative conference, especially as my first time, was to establish a direct pipeline in the halls of power in our nation's capital. Since then, I have invited them and their district staff to our training facilities, to meet with our apprentices and to learn about our programs that are training the next generation of America's workers.



Debbie, Joe, Mark Kirkes, Andrew Vasko and Matthew meeting with Congressman John Duarte



Matthew and Assemblymember Josh Hoover at Sacramento reception

Sacramento: Highs and Lows from Our State Capitol

The summer recess for the first half of 2023–2024 legislative session is before us. Unfortunately, legislation we had monitored and mounted an effort to defeat, was hastily inserted into the state budget trailer bill process and quickly signed by the governor this past week. Senate Bill 150 would compel, but not authorize, project labor agreements on projects that receive \$35 million or more in state funding.

To learn more about the impact this bill would have, as well as other important legislation, please attend ABC California's Legislative Mid-Session Update Webinar on Thursday, July 20th from 9:30 am–10:30 am. I will also be providing an update on the current state of PLAs in Northern California, including wins, losses and places that are still in play.

[Register here.](#)



Matthew and Susan attending Modesto Chamber of Commerce Mixer Event

From Livermore to Modesto: Chambers and the Community

Finding communities where we can nurture connections and build upon shared values, is a cornerstone of our community engagement efforts. This past June, Susan Siegert and I have engaged our natural allies—chambers of commerce—including hosting a mixer at our very own headquarters in Livermore. Through these events, we hope to promote our programs and gain new allies in the battle to protect and preserve the merit shop movement.

Part 2 of Advocacy Summer will have even more fruitful updates. Please stay tuned. As always, I am here to serve as a resource, but learning from you, if given the opportunity to do so, is a privilege I would not squander.

Thank you again for your time, please stay cool and enjoy the remaining summer months with your loved ones. PLAs in Northern California, including wins, losses and places that are still in play. Register here.