

Your letterhead

Date

Dear ,

March 7th marks the start of the 2017 regular Legislative Session. This session, you will vote on a number of important bills that will improve our great state, but I am writing in regard to one issue of particular importance to the building industry. As both a resident of Southwest Florida and a business professional, I have unique insight into the region's economic challenges and employment talent gaps. To this end, support for Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) funding request for three new programs is necessary for continued economic viability in southwest Florida.

I respectfully request complete funding for Florida Gulf Coast University in the amount of \$2.8 million for full implementation of three high-demand degree programs one of which represents the building industry. All these proposed programs will directly address existing talent gaps in Florida, particularly in the construction industry.

Creation of a **Construction Management Program** at FGCU is in direct response to employer demand in this region and throughout the state, supplying high wage jobs for graduates and encouraging them to stay in Florida upon graduation. The **Construction Management Program** will be an important addition to FGCU's degree portfolio to attract, retain and graduate students in 4 years or less.

On behalf of the over 425 member companies of CBIA, I urge you to cast your vote to support and approve FGCU's request of \$2.8 million which includes the **Construction Management Program**. As a business professional in the construction management industry and one of your constituents, I am counting on your help to move Florida Gulf Coast University, Southwest Florida and the state forward.

Sincerely,

Your name and company