

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY AGENDA

ASA's legislative and regulatory initiatives focus on those issues that specifically impact supply chain partners throughout the Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, and Piping (PHCP) and Industrial PVF industries. These initiatives and the positions on the issues are updated and revised as needed on an ongoing basis.

Please contact any of the following individuals with questions or to recommend additional issues and concerns:

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TAX & BUSINESS ISSUES

ASA supports federal tax and business policies that enable ASA members to operate productive and efficient businesses.

- **LIFO REPEAL:** ASA opposes repeal of the last-in, first-out (LIFO) method of accounting for inventory. Repeal will create serious tax liabilities for many ASA wholesalers and manufacturers.
- **ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION FOR SHOWROOMS:** ASA supports federal legislation which provides a statutory 15-year recovery period for qualified retail improvement property, provided such legislation is applicable to supply house showrooms.
- **GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS:** ASA supports legislation (HR 1023) to repeal a sweeping new requirement on all government contracts that goes into effect beginning in 2011. The requirement mandates a 3% tax withholding by federal, state, and local governments from payments to vendors, including distributors, for goods and services.
- **PERMANENT REPEAL OF THE DEATH TAX:** ASA continues to support permanent repeal of the death tax, but recognizes that a compromise may be necessary. Absent action by Congress, the death tax expires in 2010, only to reemerge at the old, higher rates in 2011.
- **COPPER THEFT PREVENTION ACT:** ASA supports legislation (HR 6831) requiring the transactions between the sellers of copper and secondary metal recyclers to be documented and for penalties to be assessed for noncompliance.

LABOR MANAGEMENT

ASA supports federal policies which allow employers and employees to work together.

- **LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT:** *ASA opposes legislation (HR 2831/S 1843) that effectively eliminates the current statute of limitations on filing of pay discriminations suits.*
- **SECRET BALLOT:** ASA is an active part of the effort to ensure the continued right of American workers to freely choose whether or not to be represented by a labor organization. The "Employee Free Choice Act" – or "card check" – is one of organized labor's top legislative priorities. Under the

card-check proposal, all a union would have to do to become a recognized bargaining agent is persuade a simple majority of the workers to publicly and openly sign a card indicating support for the union – denying those workers as well as all who declined to sign the card the right to a secret ballot vote to officially recognize the union. The right to vote by secret ballot—free of coercion, intimidation or inappropriate influence – is fundamental to the American democratic election process. The card-check bill would effectively eliminate workers’ ability to make the important decision over union recognition in the privacy of a voting booth.

- **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE:** ASA opposes legislation to require employers to provide seven days of paid sick leave annually for full-time workers.
- **SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS:** ASA supports federal legislation to allow creation of federally regulated small business health plans (SBHPs), also known as association health plans (AHPs). Such plans will make health insurance more affordable by spreading risk among a much larger group and insure that ASA members will continue to be able to provide health insurance to their employees.

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

ASA recognizes the importance of worker health and safety.

- **ERGONOMICS:** The outcome of the 2008 presidential election may well determine if OSHA will once again issues an ergonomics regulation. ASA continues to oppose such a regulation.
- **OSHA ALLIANCE:** ASA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will form an alliance to provide ASA members with information and access to training resources to foster safer and more healthful American workplaces.
- **ASBESTOS LIABILITY:** ASA is dedicated to enactment of congressional legislation ensuring a fair resolution of the asbestos litigation crisis.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ASA supports and promotes policies which will conserve our nation's natural resources and protect our environment.

- **WATERSENSE PARTNERSHIP:** ASA is a partner in EPA's WaterSense promotional program. A voluntary public-private partnership program, WaterSense seeks to promote water efficiency products through its partners.
- **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:** ASA supports legislation to adequately finance America's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Congressional Budget Office, and the Government Accountability Office, the projected shortfall in clean water infrastructure investment will approach \$500 billion over the next two decades.
- **APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS:** ASA supports uniform efficiency standards for heating and cooling equipment. However, ASA opposes the recently enacted regional standards for residential heating and cooling products.
- **LEAD IN PLUMBING PRODUCTS:** ASA opposes state and federal initiatives to reduce the lead content in plumbing products to such restrictive levels that manufacturers will not be able to comply. Further, ASA opposes state and federal standards with aggressive deadlines that do not allow for the normal turnover of existing inventories.