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**Major Nationwide Business Groups Invite Presidential Candidates to Speak to Members**
Top Contenders Will Take Questions from ABC, AGC, BIPAC, NFIB, and NRF Members

**Washington, DC (September 28, 2015)** – The Associated Builders and Contractors, the Associated General Contractors, the Business-Industry Political Action Committee, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the National Retail Federation have invited leading contenders for the 2016 Presidential race to speak with their members in a series of teleforums.

Qualifying candidates from both parties will be invited to answer questions in a live telephone call that will go out to tens of thousands organization members across the nation. The series will begin next month and will continue as candidates’ schedules permit. This is an opportunity for candidates to speak about their economic plans and, most importantly, hear directly from job creators about their concerns.

Invitations have been sent to the following candidates (alphabetical order):

- Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush
- Dr. Ben Carson
- Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
- Senator Ted Cruz
- Former HP CEO Carly Fiorina
- Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee
- Ohio Governor John Kasich
- Senator Marco Rubio
- Senator Bernie Sanders
- Businessman Donald Trump

The candidates qualified for the initial invitation by maintaining at least 4 percent in the Real Clear Politics average of polls during the period starting from the first GOP debate and ending on Labor Day. Should additional candidates average at least 4 percent for a 30-day time period prior to the start of voting, an invitation to participate will be sent to them.

“ABC was founded on a commitment to free enterprise and our members are excited to share their experiences as job creators,” said **ABC President and CEO Mike Bellaman**. “Construction plays an important role in the overall economy and a healthy broader economy means more construction
jobs across the country. Our members will be listening carefully for policies that embrace free enterprise, encourage economic growth and lead to an improved tax and regulatory environment.”

"Given the significance of our industry to the economy it makes sense for Presidential candidates to make their case directly to our members," said Stephen E. Sandherr, AGC of America CEO. "No doubt our members will have some pointed questions about the candidates commitment to investing in infrastructure and plans for pro-growth economic policies."

“As a former state legislator and Member of the U.S. Congress, I know first-hand the importance of educating the public about candidates’ pro-jobs policies,” said Jim Gerlach, President and CEO of BIPAC. “After winning my first campaign by 23 votes, I can attest to the statement that ‘every vote matters.’ This joint effort of the business community will help educate potential voters about the candidates and how those candidates will support their jobs, their companies, and their industries.”

“Small business owners are still struggling with poor sales,” said Dan Danner, NFIB CEO. “They want to know what the Presidential candidates are going to do to end government uncertainty, stabilize the economy and encourage growth. Small business owners vote and will be listening hard to see who stands up for them and who doesn't... and they will remember that when they go to the polls. We’re looking forward to a serious discussion about how to strengthen our country.”

"From health care policy to tax reform, the next President will have an enormous impact on issues that affect retailers on a daily basis," said Matthew Shay, NRF President and CEO. "NRF is proud to offer our 18,000 members the opportunity to hear directly from the leading candidates on the topics they care most about. Retail is the nation's largest private sector employer - supporting one in four U.S. jobs - and we urge the candidates to listen carefully to our members’ concerns."

NOTE TO REPORTERS: credentialed members of the media are invited to listen in live to the telephone teleforums. Note, per election law, recordings of the call will not be available after the fact. In order to participate, press should send an e-mail to Andrew.wimer@nfib.org with their media outlet clearly identified. A link to listen live online will be sent shortly before the calls start. Watch for further releases regarding the date and time of the individual teleforums.

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