Following the conclusion of the Republican national convention in New Orleans, the Wall and Ceiling Industries Political Action Committee (WAC/PAC) reiterated its earlier endorsement of George Bush for president of the United States. On Wednesday, March 16, 1988, at its annual convention held in Nashville, Tenn., the board of directors of the political action committee unanimously endorsed Bush and called for an overall commitment from the membership and construction industry to work for the election of Bush as president.

In addition, the association PAC in an unusual move determined that it would only endorse Republican candidates for the Senate. Based on the free market philosophy, the association wants control of the Senate back in the hands of the Republican party.

Joe M. Baker, Jr., executive vice president of the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries-International and treasurer of WAC/PAC, announced how proud he was of the association. The group was one of two national associations to endorse Ronald Reagan for president back in 1980.

AWCI has 1200 members who are the most successful contractors and suppliers in drywall, lathing, plastering, acoustical ceiling, fireproofing, exterior insulation and asbestos abatement and is the largest non-profit trade association serving this industry.

Baker commented: “We pledge our best efforts to educate our employees and our communities to the importance of supporting the Bush presidency and getting out there to vote. Our goal is to seek candidates that are the best for business. There is no question that Bush is best for the construction industry. We are supportive of Bush in his drive to keep inflation and interest rates down, unemployment at its greatest low and no rise in taxes. In addition, we will continue to motivate as many other associations as possible and their members in our desire to maintain a free-market economy.”

Following President Reagan’s election in 1980, AWCI founded the Construction Industry Coalition for the New Beginning, made up of 49 national construction-oriented trade associations dedicated to working for passage of the president’s Economic Recovery Program. Reagan called the group to the White House to thank them for their hard work and ever-present support. AWCI has assisted the Reagan-Bush White House on many legislative battles.

Burt Fisher, president of AWCI and president of Davis Acoustical Corporation of Troy, New York, stated: “We are proud to be leaders behind George Bush’s drive to the presidency and will work in the hustings to do our best to continue the economic prosperity which has meant so much to the construction industry and to this country.”

AWCI’s members are spread across the country and the world. Political action is important to the group in its desire to further economic growth. Mike Boyd, chairman of WAC/PAC and chief executive officer of Ray Boyd Construction Systems from Garland, Texas, says, “We know George Bush here in Texas; this country will flourish with Bush as president.”