



December 2, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

The National Roofing Contractors Association strongly supports A Stronger Workforce for America Act (H.R. 6655), as amended by the Senate to reauthorize and reform the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This critical legislation is urgently needed to help roofing industry employers address workforce shortages that are growing more acute every year. H.R. 6655 as amended will improve the workforce development system, strengthen our economy and provide more opportunities for American workers, and urges its approval before the end of the 118th Congress.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of roofing professionals worldwide. Our nearly 4,000 member companies represent all segments of the industry, including contractors, manufacturers, distributors, consultants, and other employers in all 50 states and internationally. NRCA members are typically small, privately held companies with the average member employing 45 people and attaining sales of \$4.5 million per year. The U.S. roofing industry is an essential \$100 billion sector with nearly one million employees that provides critical materials and services to ensure home and business safety.

Chronic workforce shortages continue to be the top challenge facing roofing industry employers as demographic trends and tight labor markets make it very difficult to find qualified candidates for well-paying, family-sustaining jobs. More efficient and effective investment in workforce skills and improved WIOA programs will help employers address their workforce development needs in today's economy.

NRCA strongly supports H.R. 6655 as amended because it contains innovative reforms that will streamline the current bureaucracy and provide more flexibility within the WIOA system to improve accessibility for roofing industry employers, especially small businesses. This legislation will help close the skills gap by providing for better functioning state and local workforce boards and spurring the types of innovation needed to respond more effectively to regional workforce shortages. It will provide greater recognition of competency-based training and certification programs, expand opportunities for collaboration between industry and educational institutions, and allocate more funding for incumbent worker education and skills development.

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION | WASHINGTON OFFICE

Again, NRCA strongly supports H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for American Act, as amended because it will help expand access to well-paying, rewarding careers for employees in roofing and other trades. **We strongly urge passage of this vital bipartisan and bicameral agreement before the end of the 118th Congress.** NRCA commends Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and ranking member Bill Cassidy (R-LA), along with House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and ranking member Bobby Scott (D-VA), for their leadership in developing effective workforce solutions for small businesses and workers.

Thank you for your consideration of the views of NRCA members. If you have questions or need more information on this issue, please contact Duane Musser (DMusser@nrca.net) or Deb Mazol (DMazol@nrca.net) in our Washington, D.C. office at (202) 546-7584.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane Musser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Duane" being more prominent and the last name "Musser" following in a similar style.

Chief Executive Officer

CC: All Members of the Senate