



March 5, 2025

The Honorable Burgess Owens
Chairman
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Development
House Committee on Education and
Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alma Adams
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Development
House Committee on Education and
Workforce
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Owens and Ranking Member Adams,

The National Roofing Contractors Association strongly supports bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and reform the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which is urgently needed to help roofing industry employers address workforce shortages that are growing more severe every year. NRCA commends you for holding a hearing entitled “Strengthening WIOA: Improving Outcomes for America’s Workforce” to receive and review stakeholder input on this critical issue, and requests this letter be included in the official hearing record.

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 A Stronger Workforce for America Act (H.R. 6655 as amended in the 118th Congress) 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 also will provide greater recognition of competency-based training and certification programs, expand

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opportunities for collaboration between industry and educational institutions and allocate more funding for incumbent worker education and skills development.

The bipartisan/bicameral agreement on H.R. 6655 reached among key House and Senate lawmakers in late 2024 will dramatically improve the WIOA system, strengthen our economy and provide more opportunities for American workers. NRCA urges subcommittee members to continue working with other lawmakers to move forward with further consideration of this or similar legislation with a goal of enacting WIOA reform legislation in 2025. We are excited about the potential to provide our members with new options to help them expand access to well-paying, rewarding careers for employees in roofing and other trades.

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 "Deb Mazol". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Deb" being more prominent and the last name "Mazol" following in a similar style.

Chief Executive Officer

CC: All Members of the Subcommittee