



April 8, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries,

The National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) supports H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and reform the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This critical legislation is urgently needed to help NRCA members address workforce shortages that are growing more acute every year. NRCA commends you for your leadership in bringing this bipartisan legislation to the House floor and urges its swift passage.

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 increasingly tight labor markets make it more difficult than ever to find qualified candidates for well-paying, family-sustaining jobs. More efficient and effective investment in workforce skills and improved WIOA programs will help provide strategies and tools for employers to address their challenging workforce development needs in today's economy.

NRCA strongly supports H.R. 6655 because it contains 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 provide better functioning state and local workforce boards to spur innovation and enable programs to respond more effectively to regional workforce shortages to help close the skills gap. The bill will also 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. These and other provisions within the bill have great

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION | WASHINGTON OFFICE

potential to help NRCA members and other employers address their workforce needs by taking advantage of more effective WIOA programs.

Again, NRCA strongly supports H.R. 6655 because it will help expand access to well-paying, rewarding careers for employees in roofing and similar industries, and urges members of the House to approve the bill and send it to the Senate with a strong bipartisan vote. NRCA also commends House Committee on Education and the Workforce Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC), ranking member Bobby Scott (D-VA) and other members for working across the political aisle to develop effective workforce solutions for small businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of the views of NRCA members. If you have questions or need more information on this matter, 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 House