

July 8, 2014

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The undersigned businesses and organizations, which together represent virtually every sector of the U.S. economy, share your continued goal of creating a skilled workforce that is prepared for today's jobs. Employers are significantly impacted by the lack of high-skilled workers required to meet the needs of a modern workforce. We need immediate and long-term solutions to replenish the skilled workforce pipeline and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act takes significant steps towards that goal.

In a recent survey, over 80 percent of employers reported a moderate or serious shortage of qualified applicants for skilled and highly-skilled production positions. Promoting training programs that are in demand and recognized by employers as necessary to success will go a long way towards solving that problem. H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, also eliminates duplicative programs, streamlines many of the burdensome requirements that drain the existing outdated workforce system, and allows for increased incumbent worker training.

Employers need a functional Federal workforce system that trains workers to jobs that are in demand. WIOA addresses this in a thoughtful way and also improves other aspects of the Federal workforce training system. We urge Congress to pass this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A. O. Smith Corporation
ACE Clearwater
Air-Conditioning, Heating, Refrigeration Institute
ALLETE / Minnesota Power
American Bakers Association
American Boat Builders & Repairers Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association
Arkansas Aerospace and Defense Alliance
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce
Associated Industries of Arkansas
Arkansas Trucking Association
Arrow Gear Company
Bison Gear & Engineering Corporation
Business Leaders for Michigan
California Manufacturers & Technology Association
Caterpillar Inc.
Cayuga Economic Development Agency
Click Bond, Inc.
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry (CACI)
CompTIA
Control Technology, Inc.
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
Emerson
Exacto, Inc. of South Bend
Ferguson Perforating Company
Gehring-Tricot Corp
General and Automotive Machine Shop, Inc.
General Electric
Glass Packaging Institute
Hewlett-Packard Company
HR Policy Association
IBM Governmental

IMA-NA
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Industrial Fasteners Institute
Industrial Minerals Association - North America
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
International Paper
Jamison Door Company
Koller Enterprises, Inc.
Lovejoy Chaplet Corporation
Lunar Industries, Inc.
Marion Regional Manufacturing Association
Metals Service Center Institute
Metl-Span
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Microsoft Corporation
Midmark Corporation
Mississippi Manufacturers Association
Modern Metal Processing, Inc.
Montana Chamber
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Montana Manufacturing Council
National Association of Manufacturers
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Precast Concrete Association
National Tooling & Machining Association
Neenah Enterprises Inc.
Nevada Manufacturers Association
North American Die Casting Association
Opportunity America
PMMI, The Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies
Powder Coating Institute, Inc.

Powell Industries Inc.
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
Quality Float Works, Inc.
Resistance Welding Solutions, Inc. dba
LORS Machinery
Rhode Island Manufacturers Association
SAS Institute Inc.
SASCO Chemical Group, Inc.
Siemens Corporation
Snap-on Incorporated
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Stanley Black & Decker Inc.
Steel Tank Institute

Steel Plate Fabricators Association
SUMCO Phoenix Corporation
Superior Graphite Co.
TechNet
Tennessee Association of Manufacturers
Texas Association of Business
The Member Companies of the Valley Industrial
Association
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association
Thermcraft, Inc.
Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing
North America, Inc.
WilliamsRDM, Inc.