

Jay Timmons

Executive Vice President

September 28, 2010

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 4072, the American Manufacturing Efficiency and Retraining Investment Collaboration Act (AMERICA Works Act).

American manufacturers frequently cite the need for a skilled workforce as among their top priorities. Employers rely on the right workers with the right skills at the right time to drive innovation, increase productivity and remain globally competitive. Workers need the technical skills to access employment and advancement opportunities. The best way to prepare today's students and transitioning workers for the modern workforce is to offer training in nationally-portable, industry-recognized certifications.

Each year, the federal government invests billions of dollars in workforce training programs with a limited impact. This bill responds by prioritizing existing funding for education and training programs (the Carl D. Perkins Vocational–Technical Education Act and the Workforce Investment Act) toward a registry of industry-recognized, nationally-portable credentials. By giving priority to education and training that leads toward skills credentials and that offers real value in the workplace for both workers and employers, the bill recognizes the need for a strong technical workforce in America and the value of industry-recognized, nationally-portable credentials.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on the AMERICA Works Act, including potential procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 111th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jay Timmons

Key Manufacturing Vote