

July 23, 2012

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor  
and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor  
and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Kline and Harkin and Ranking Members Miller and Enzi:

As the end of the 112<sup>th</sup> legislative session draws nearer, the undersigned organizations urge you to consider passage of the America Works Act, sponsored by Reps. Donnelly (D-IN), Platts (R-PA) and Boren (D-OK) and Senator Hagan (D-NC). It is a smart approach to education and training that will benefit educators, employers, employees and the overall economy.

The U.S. needs a strong technical workforce. The growing skills gap between employers and potential employees is hindering economic growth. Employers rely on the right workers with the right skills to drive innovation, increase productivity and remain globally competitive. Workers need the right skills to access employment and advancement opportunities. The AMERICA Works Act would help close the skills gap and effectively prepare individuals to succeed in the workplace.

Many industries have endorsed a set of certifications that build the skills necessary for success in the workplace. Focusing Federal resources on industry-recognized credentials allows potential employees to know they are being trained in skills in-demand by the private sector. The America Works Act would direct existing public funds toward nationally portable, credentials industry-recognized, empowering educators and workers to know which certifications build the skills valued by potential employers. It would also recognize, prefer, and reward those institutions whose programs provide students with nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials.

The federal government invests billions of dollars each year in workforce training programs and the America Works Act helps to ensure those funds are spent in a way that responds to the needs of the marketplace without increasing overall spending or creating a new federal program. Directing priority funding to education and training that results in nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials will be good for workers and good for the economy.

Sincerely,

### Companies

ACE Clearwater Enterprises  
AGCO Corporation  
Alamo Colleges  
Behlen Mfg Co.  
Bison Gear  
Bob Sheppard, Pioneer Products  
Carl Dekker, Owner and President, Met-I-Flo Inc.  
Collie L. Hutter, President, Click Bond, Inc  
Cummins, Inc.  
David Modi, Vice President, Government Affairs, Ingersoll Rand  
Eric Isbister, CEO, GenMet Corp  
General and Automotive Machine Shop, Inc of Huntsville Alabama  
James Sinclair, Senior Advisor, Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc.  
Jeffrey Davis, Director of Operations, Blackhawk Molder Co., Inc.  
Jonathan Casella, Associate, Cushman & Wakefield  
Lord Corporation  
Lori Luchak, President, Miles Fiberglass & Composites, Inc.  
McNeely Plastics  
Metal Essence, Inc.  
Molded Fiber Glass Companies/NC  
Ohio Manufacturers Association  
Quality Float Works  
RoyOMartin  
Shawn Kaufman, Director Human Resources, Riggs Industries  
Smith and Richardson Inc.  
TrueBlue, Inc.  
Vermeer Corporation  
Waukesha Foundry, Inc.  
Welch Allyn  
Woodward Inc.

### Associations

Abe Eshkenazi, Chief Executive Officer, APICS The Association for Operations Management  
ACT, Inc.  
Allen Powell, Co-founder/Executive Director, National Technical Honor Society  
America Welding Society  
American Foundry Society and its Cast Metal Institute  
American Society for Transportation and Logistics  
ASQ  
Association of Washington Business  
Automation Federation  
Business Council of Alabama  
California Manufacturers & Technology Association  
Chattanooga Regional Manufacturers Association  
Dyke Messinger, President, Power Curbers Inc.  
Henry J. Cialone, P.h.D President and CEO, EWI  
Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce  
Illinois Manufacturers' Association  
Industrial Minerals Association - North America (IMA-NA)  
Iowa Association of Business and Industry

Jackson Area Manufacturers Association  
Lynne Carr, Executive Vice President, Spring Manufacturers Institute  
Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation (MAPI)  
Manufacturers Association of Central New York  
Manufacturers Association of Florida  
Manufacturers' Association of South Central Pennsylvania  
Mississippi Manufacturers Association  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Tooling and Machining Association  
Nebraska Advanced Manufacturing Coalition  
North Dakota Chamber of Commerce  
Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute  
Precision Machined Products Association  
Precision Metalforming Association  
Ray Bacon, Executive Director, Nevada Manufacturers Association  
Richard Burdine, Development Corporation of Abilene  
South Florida Manufacturers Association  
Steven F. Dwyer, President and CEO, Conexus Indiana  
Valley Industrial Association

#### Educators

Mary Kaye Bredeson, Executive Director, Center for Excellence for Aerospace & Advanced Materials Manufacturing  
Promod Vohra, Dean of the College of Engineering & Engineering Technology at Northern Illinois University  
Anastasia Zita, Assistant Superintendent Santa Rosa City Schools  
Anne Arundel Community College  
Bates Technical College  
Bill Law, Ph.D. President, St. Petersburg College  
Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D. President, Central Ohio Technical College  
Bryan Albrecht, P.h.D. President, Gateway Technical College  
Central Piedmont Community College  
Connecticut State Colleges and Universities - Board of Regents for Higher Education  
Cynthia Bioteau, P.h.D. President, Salt Lake Community College  
Daniel Nichols, Chief Executive Officer, Victory Tech School of Science and Technology  
David Woodall, President of Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
Dr. Douglas Allen, President Rodgewater College  
Dr. Douglas Brauer, Vice President, Richland Community College  
Dr. Randy Ledford, Dean School of Business Engineering and Technical Studies, Davidson County Community College  
East Valley Institute of Technology  
Frank Pugh, Director, Santa Rosa City Schools  
Gary Green, P.h.D. President, Forsyth Technical Community College  
Gateway Technical College  
Glen Fenter, P.h.D. President, Mid-South Community College  
James Jacobs, President, Macomb Community College  
James Mackey, Education Director, Wisconsin Technical College System  
Jim Wellever, Department Head, Michigan Career & Technical Institute  
Kansas Board of Regents  
Kenneth L. Ender, Ph.D. President, William Rainey Harper College  
Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Manufacturing Skill Standards Council  
Mel Schiavelli, Executive VP, Northern Virginia Community College  
Northwest Iowa Community College  
Para Jones, P.h.D President, Stark State College  
Patricia McKeown, Ed.D. President, Bellingham Technical College  
Randy Kimmens, District Director of Workforce Development, Maricopa County Community College District  
Richard E. Helton of Vincennes University  
Rob Stewart, The Quality Group  
Roy A. Church, President, Lorain County Community College  
Shoreline Community College  
St. Louis Community College  
Steve Hanson, President, Renton Technical College  
Thomas Eckert, Ph.D. President, Blackhawk Technical College  
Tim Hardee, P.h.D President, Central Carolina Technical College  
Troy Davis, Instructor, Central Community College  
Wichita Area Technical College, National Center for Aviation Training  
Willie Johnson, Director Corporate Training, Great Plains Technology Center

#### Not-for-Profits

Dan Swinny, Executive Director, Center for Labor and Community Research  
Elliot A. Ginsberg, President/CEO, The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc  
Fred Dedrick, Executive Director, National Fund for Workforce Solutions  
InfoComm International  
International Fluid Power Society  
International Society of Automation  
Janice Urbanik, Director of Industry Partnership, Partners for a Competitive Workforce  
Keith Patridge, President, McAllen Economic Development Corp.  
MAF Center for Advanced Manufacturing Excellence  
Mary Helen Kress, Suncoast Workforce Board, Manatee and Sarasota Counties, Florida  
The Council of Industry  
The Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network, Cleveland  
The Manufacturing Institute

#### Individuals

Ed McCann, Chief Operating Officer, Berks County Workforce Investment Board  
Fred Wentzel, Executive Vice President, National Council for Advanced Manufacturing  
David Cash, Washington, DC  
James LeJean' Battieste, Houston, TX  
James Reeb, Retired Executive Volunteer, Job Corps, SCORE, Manufacturing Institute  
Jerry Jasinowksi, Former President the Manufacturing Institute  
Jonathan Begley, Executive Director, Dream It Do It Nevada  
Rory Patrick Stevenson, Manager, Planning & Partnership Development, Berks County Workforce Investment Board  
Stewart Weinberg, Former Superintendent