



June 13, 2024

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
455 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Full Committee Hearing: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Supporting Efforts to Meet the Needs of Youth, Workers, and Employers

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

The National Demolition Association (NDA) represents nearly 500 U.S. and Canadian companies that offer standard demolition services as well as a full range of demolition-related services and products. NDA educates members on the latest advances in equipment and services, provides educational programs and tools to stay abreast of regulatory and safety matters and keeps regulators informed about issues in our industry. NDA also increases public awareness of the economic and societal benefits of demolition.

NDA writes today to applaud the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions for holding a hearing on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the urgent need to overhaul America's workforce development system. Since WIOA was last reauthorized in 2014, employers in the construction industry have faced unprecedented challenges in hiring and retaining skilled workers. According to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics released on June 4, 2024, there are currently 8.1 million job openings in the United States, which includes 338,000 unfilled job openings in the construction industry alone.¹ Labor shortages threaten the future of the construction industry and U.S. economy as a whole.

To address these pressing workforce challenges, NDA supports H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act. This legislation reauthorizes WIOA and makes significant improvements to the workforce development system that will put more individuals on track to a successful career. NDA was encouraged by the strong bipartisan support for H.R. 6655 in the House of Representatives and hopes the Senate can continue the legislative momentum on this critical issue.

As the Senate drafts legislation to reauthorize WIOA in the coming weeks, NDA urges your committee to build on the principles of H.R. 6655 and craft proposals that prioritize workforce training, skills development, and stronger connections between employers and the workforce system. NDA looks forward to working closely with members of the committee to pass legislation that leads to a more resilient workforce pipeline and ensures the U.S. economy remains strong both now and in the future.

¹ Press release, "Job Openings and Labor Turnover, April 2024," U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 4, 2024

Thank you for your attention to this issue and if you have any questions, please contact NDA's Director of Government Affairs Alex McIntyre at amcintyre@demolitionassociation.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lambert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeff Lambert
Chief Executive Officer
National Demolition Association (NDA)