NRCA

ROOFING DAY IN D.C.

2022

Roofing Industry Supports Workforce Funding and Innovation

The roofing industry is an essential $100 billion sector with nearly 1 million employees. It is vital to addressing affordable housing shortages and building, repairing and maintaining schools, hospitals and other critical infrastructure nationwide. These efforts are in jeopardy as the roofing industry is experiencing unprecedented supply chain and workforce disruptions that show little indication of easing soon. Systemic issues in technical education and career training have resulted in too few skilled trades men and women who manufacture, transport and install the products that provide shelter to all Americans. The supply chain challenges that began during the pandemic have exacerbated workforce shortages, which have been ongoing for many years. We support the following policies to address these critical challenges.

Perkins Career and Technical Education Grants

The roofing industry supports robust funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education State Grants that help employers meet workforce development needs. This funding for improved and expanded CTE is critical to ensuring more students obtain the training needed to close the skills gap in the workforce. It is vital Congress provide sufficient funding for CTE programs to provide more opportunities for students to develop skills and pursue rewarding careers in the roofing industry. This is even more true given economic trends that have been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting supply chain disruptions.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

The roofing industry supports efforts in Congress to reform the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to ensure more job creators and workers can take advantage of its benefits. Authorized funding has grown modestly through 2020, and Congress is discussing ways to reform this program. In addition to increased funding for WIOA, the roofing industry supports reform that addresses burdensome paperwork for small businesses, lack of awareness of the program within communities, allowing funding to be used for competency-based programs and required credentialing, and better functioning workforce boards that meet the urgency of workforce needs.

Immigration Reform that Meets Workforce Needs

Roofing industry employers provide family-sustaining jobs for qualified employees but face chronic workforce shortages because of an aging workforce and other demographic trends. In fact, workforce shortages are the biggest impediment to the ability of companies to sustain and grow their businesses while providing families with the most basic necessity—roofs over their heads. These challenges confront businesses of all sizes and types from family-owned contractors to large manufacturers of roofing products. We support the Workforce for an Expanding Economy Act (H.R. 4288) to establish a visa system that meets the needs of a 21st century economy. This market-oriented system allots more visas in times of economic strength and fewer during downturns, enabling businesses to address their workforce needs while protecting the interests of workers. The roofing industry also supports legislation to allow qualified individuals who have been working legally under Temporary Protected Status or the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals program to adjust to lawful permanent resident status and the opportunity to apply for citizenship.

For questions, please contact
NRCA's Washington, D.C., office at (202) 546-7584 or (800) 338-5765.

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