

May 21, 2014

Dear Member of Congress,

We the undersigned businesses and organizations urge you to move forward with reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins). As the American economy recovers from the most significant economic recession in recent memory, employers are still reporting a shortage of skilled workers to fill in-demand positions. Career and technical education (CTE) programs, found throughout the country, are central to overcoming this skills gap and provide greater opportunity for America's youth and adults.

CTE has proven to be an effective tool for improving student outcomes and helps prepare both secondary and postsecondary students with the necessary academic, technical, and employability skills required for successful entry into the workforce. Indeed, CTE prepares students both for college *and* careers.

Reauthorizing the Perkins Act is critical for the continued economic prosperity of the United States and ensures the country remain a leader in global competitiveness. As Congress sets out on this task, we urge you and your colleagues to focus on areas where improvements can be made to current law, building upon its past successes and enhancing aspects of the Perkins Act, which will help to better serve both workers and employers. A reauthorized version of Perkins should:

- Align CTE programs to the needs of the regional, state, and local labor market;
- Support effective and meaningful collaboration between secondary and postsecondary institutions and employers;
- Increase student participation in experiential learning opportunities such as industry internships, apprenticeships and mentorships; and promote the use of industry-recognized credentials.

These improvements will more effectively spend federal dollars to help our nation's students acquire the skills that they need and employers are demanding. We urge you to move forward with this important work and applaud Congress' ongoing bipartisan commitment to invest in our nation's students, workers, and economy.

Sincerely,

ACE Clearwater Enterprises
ACT, Inc.
Adobe
Advanced Micro Devices
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
American Cleaning Institute (ACI)
American Coatings Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
Applied Materials
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Arizona Manufacturers Council
Arizona School Boards Association
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/AIA
Arrow Gear Company
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT)
Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE)
Association of Global Automakers, Inc.
Association of Washington Business
AT&T
Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation
Austin Chamber of Commerce
Austin Community College
Austin Technology Council
Auto Care Association
Automotive Training Managers Council (ATMC)
Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES)
Battelle
Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation
Boeing Company
Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)
Business Council of New York State, Inc.
Business Council of Westchester
Business Roundtable
CA Botana International, Inc.
CA Technologies

California Manufacturers & Technology Association
California STEM Learning Network
Career and Technology Association of Texas
Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis & Vicinity
Cecil College
Center for Employment Training
Central Arizona College
CEO Council for Growth
Certiport
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
Cisco
Citizen Schools
Clow Stamping Company
Cloyes Gear and Products, Inc.
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry (CACI)
Colorado Succeeds
Columbia Vista Corporation
Communities in Schools of North Carolina
Computer Science Teachers Association
Cook Medical
Copper & Brass Fabricators Council
Corn Refiners Association
Corporate Education Consulting, Inc
Council of Industry of Southeastern New York
Cox Manufacturing Co., Inc.
CTE Academy, Round Rock, Texas
Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation (DASEF)
Deloitte LLP
Delta Engineers, Architects, & Land Surveyors
Dominion Resources, Inc.
Eastern Arizona College
Eastern Arizona College of Health & Physical Education Division
Eastern Arizona College of Welding
Eastman Chemical Company
Elbit Systems of America
EMC
Emerson
Enkei America, Inc.
Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International
Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers' Enterprise (FAME)
Freescale Semiconductor
General & Automotive Machine Shop, Inc
Georgia Association of Manufacturers
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Greater Dubuque Development Corporation
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
GSE Dynamics Inc.
Hermann Oak Leather
Hewlett-Packard Company
Hi-Lex
Honda North America, Inc.
Houston Area Urban League
HR Policy Association
IBM
Illinois Technology Association
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Industrial Minerals Association - North America
Industrial Tool, Die & Engineering, Inc.
Industry Workforce Needs Council
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Ingersoll Rand
Innovate Educate
Integrity Aerospace Group
Intel Corporation
International Technology and Engineering Educators Association
Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council
J C Renfroe & Sons
Jack Wymer, LLC
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
Jim Godfrey & Associates LLC
Jobs for the Future
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association
Lanxess Corporation
Lexmark International
Magnet Schools of America
Manufacturers Association of Florida
MarZee, Inc.
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE)
Massachusetts Business Roundtable (MBR)
MeadWestvaco
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Micron Technology
Mississippi Manufacturers Association
Missouri Chamber of Commerce
Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education –Office of College & Career Readiness
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
NAACP

National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc)
National Association of Trailer Manufacturers
National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF)
National Center for Technological Literacy at the Museum of Science, Boston
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Council of State Directors of Adult Education
National Girls Collaborative Project
National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)
National Skills Coalition
National Tooling and Machining Association
NCR Corporation
Neustar
New England Council
New Jersey Business & Industry Association
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Employer Coalition for Technical Education
New Mexico STEM Network
North American Die Casting Association
North American Technician Excellence
North Carolina New Schools
North Carolina Technology Association (NCTA)
Northeast PA Manufacturers & Employers Association
Northrop Grumman Corporation
OEM Fabricators, Inc.
Ohio Manufacturers' Association
Opportunity America
Opportunity Nation
Optimax Systems, Inc.
Oracle
Partnership for Air Conditioning, Heating, Refrigeration Accreditation (PAHRA)
Pathways to Prosperity Kansas/Missouri Regional Council
PG&E
Philadelphia Education Fund
Philadelphia Works, Inc.
Phoenix Closures, Inc.
Pima Community College
Pivot Manufacturing
Polaris Industries
Power Transmission Distributors Association
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
Principal Financial Group
PTC Group Holdings Corp.

Quality Float Works, Inc.
Radix Wire
Raytheon
Red Hat
Rockwell Collins
Samsung Austin Semiconductor
San Antonio Manufacturers Association
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
SAP
SAS
Siemens
Silicon Valley Education Foundation
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Skills for America's Future
SkillsUSA
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Graphic Imaging Association
Spirit Aerosystems
Stellar Industries, Inc.
STEMx
Taminco Global Chemical Corp.
Tech Council of Maryland
TechAmerica
TechNet
TechNexus LLC
Technology Association of Iowa
TechVoice
Texas Association of Business
Texas Association of School Administrators
Texas Association of School Boards
Texas Computer Education Association
Texas K-12 CTO Council
Thermcraft, Inc
THORS, LLC
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
Triangle Coalition for STEM Education
Trim-Tex, Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United States Steel Corporation
United Way for Greater Austin
United Way Silicon Valley
United Way Worldwide
United Ways of Texas
Universal Technical Institute
Uniweld Products Inc.
Utah Manufacturers Association

Valley Industrial Association
Vermeer Corporation
Vernier Software & Technology
Virginia Manufacturers Association
Washington STEM
Workforce Solutions Capital Area
Year Up
Young Invincibles