

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Committee on Education
and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education
and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Full Committee Hearing – Unleashing America’s Opportunities for Hiring and Employment

Dear Chairman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

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 appreciates the committee’s willingness to hold a hearing on workforce challenges in the U.S. economy and for the opportunity to provide written comments on this critical issue. Labor shortages continue to pose a very real challenge to both the short-term and long-term health of the demolition industry and construction sector as a whole. The impacts of these labor shortages are affecting stakeholders ranging from small, family-owned businesses to large corporations.

According to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics released on March 8, 2023, there are currently 10.8 million job openings in the United States.¹ This includes nearly 365,000 unfilled job openings in the construction industry alone.² This economic data acutely conveys the difficult challenges facing small businesses and the urgent need for the federal government to prioritize policies that encourage a robust and skilled labor force. NDA supports bipartisan solutions to address the labor crisis and calls on Congress to work together on legislation that will strengthen workforce development and help alleviate labor shortages in essential industries, such as demolition.

NDA remains concerned about the growing “skills gap” in the nation’s workforce and the negative effects it is having on the demolition industry. NDA supports policies to address the shortage of qualified candidates for high-skilled jobs and other efforts to increase the pool of qualified candidates for technical jobs on demolition sites. NDA urges the Education and Workforce Committee to prioritize the following policies as it examines solutions to America’s hiring challenges.

- Support legislation to improve and expand apprenticeship opportunities, vocational training and other work-based learning initiatives to address the shortage of skilled labor in the private sector.
- Support legislation addressing the shortage of qualified candidates for high-skilled jobs by improving and promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education in secondary and postsecondary education settings.

¹ [Press release, “Job Openings and Labor Turnover, January 2023,” U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 8, 2023](#)

² Ibid.

- Support educational programs, such as Pell Grants and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education program, to boost technical training in secondary and postsecondary education settings.
- Support the use of federal block grants to states for workforce development initiatives.
- Support policies that encourage the training and hiring of military veterans for jobs in the demolition industry.
- Oppose policies that discourage individuals from joining the labor force and negatively impact employee retention.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this important issue. NDA looks forward to working with your committee in the coming months on bipartisan legislation to improve the nation's workforce development pipeline and address these challenges in a manner that strengthens the demolition industry. Please contact NDA's Director of Government Affairs Alex McIntyre at amcintyre@demolitionassociation.com with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lambert
Chief Executive Officer
National Demolition Association