



February 23, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce Act and H.R. 6585, Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

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.

Last December, NDA was encouraged to see the House Education and Workforce Committee come together to advance two critical pieces of bipartisan legislation to reform the nation's workforce development system. By a near unanimous vote, the committee approved H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, which reauthorizes and updates the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for the first time in nearly a decade. This bill makes significant improvements to WIOA that will boost the amount of skills development provided under the law, build stronger connections between employers and the workforce system, and put more individuals on track to a successful career. The committee also approved H.R. 6585, the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, which expands Pell Grant eligibility to include high-quality, short-term training programs and provides opportunities for students and workers to gain new skills in high-demand fields.

For the last several years, NDA has expressed concerns and raised awareness in Congress about the ongoing labor shortages in the nation's workforce and the negative effects it is having on the demolition industry. Since WIOA expired in FY 2020, employers have faced unprecedented workforce challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics released on January 30, 2024, there are currently 9.0 million job openings in the United States.¹ This includes nearly 450,000 unfilled job openings in the construction industry alone. The economic data acutely conveys the difficult challenges facing employers and the urgent need to pass legislation that will encourage a robust and skilled labor force.

¹ Press release, "Job Openings and Labor Turnover, December 2023," U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 30, 2024

To this end, NDA urges leadership in the House of Representatives to support A Stronger Workforce for America Act and the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, and bring both bills up for a vote on the House floor as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment 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", written in a cursive style.

Jeff Lambert
Chief Executive Officer
National Demolition Association (NDA)