

January 8th, 2016

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). Employers are reporting a shortage of skilled workers to fill in-demand positions. Career and technical education (CTE) programs, throughout the country, are central to overcoming this skills gap.

CTE is 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,

100 Black Men of America, Inc.
AASA, the School Superintendents Association
ACE Clearwater
ACT, Inc.
Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
AHRI
Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association
Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education
Alabama Technology Network
Alcoa, Inc.
Alcoa Foundation
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Allegheny Conference on Community Development

Alloy Engineering Co. Inc.
AMD, Inc
American Architectural Manufacturers Association
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Bakers Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Foundry Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Employers
American Welding Society
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology
Application Developers Alliance
Applied Materials, Inc
Archer Daniels Midland Company
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Arizona Technology Council
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce / Associated Industries of Arkansas
Arrow Gear Company
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association for Manufacturing Excellence
Association for Talent Development
Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International
Association of Global Automakers
Association of Washington Business
AT&F Co.
Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation
Austin Affordable Housing Corp
Austin Affordable Housing Corporation and Austin Pathways.
Austin Chamber of Commerce
Austin Free-Net
Austin Pathways
Austin Semiconductor
Aviation Technician Education Council
Banner Metals Group, Inc.
Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce
Battelle
Baut Studios, Inc
Bentonville Casting Co., Inc.
Bison Gear and Engineering
Bixel Exchange
Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council
BookSpring
Bosch
Bridgeport Fittings, Inc.
Building Contractors Association of Westchester and Mid-Hudson Region, Inc.
Business Council of Alabama
California STEM Learning Network
Cameron Manufacturing & Design, Inc.

Capital Region (NY) Chamber.
Career & Technology Association of Texas
Carpenter District Council of St. Louis Missouri
Caterpillar, Inc.
Center for Economic Growth
Center for Employment Training
Central Hudson Gas & Electric
CEO Council for Growth
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
Chemcut Corporation
Chobani
Citizen Schools
Click Bond, Inc.
Collaborative for Children
Colonial Circuits Inc.
Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry
Colorado Business Roundtable
Colorado Technology Association
Colortech, Inc
Committee of 100 for Economic Development, Inc. (Louisiana)
Communities In Schools of Mid-America, Inc.
CompTIA
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Connecticut Technology Council
Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley, Inc.
Corning Area Chamber of Commerce
Cortland County Chamber of Commerce
Council of Industry of Southeastern New York
CTE - Carpenters District Council of Greater St. Louis
Cyberways & Waterways
BookSpring
Cyberways and Waterways
Dallas Community College
Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce
Dell Inc.
Deloitte, LLP
Delta Systems
Dept of Elementary & Secondary Educ - Pathways to Prosperity Kansas/Missouri Regional
Council
Duer/Carolina Coil Inc.
Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board
Eaton
EDGE
Education Foundation of Harris County
Elance-oDesk, Inc.
Ellwood Group, Inc.
Emerson
EntreEd, The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education
EXACTO, INC. OF SOUTH BEND
FatPipe ABQ

Flowing Wells School District
Forging Industry Association
Freescale
Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce
G&D Integrated
General & Automotive Machine Shop, Inc.
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
General Equipment and Supplies
Genesee County Chamber of Commerce
Genesys Works
Georgia Association of Manufacturers
Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
Girl Scouts of Central Texas
Global Cold Chain Alliance
GLOBALFOUNDRIES
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Greater Dubuque Development Corporation
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
Greater North Dakota Chamber
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Greno Industries Inc.
GSV Advisors
Guntert & Zimmerman
Heart of Florida United Way
Hewlett-Packard Company
Hi-Lex
Hillside Family of Agencies
Honda North America, Inc.
Houston Area Urban League
Houston Area Urban League
HR Policy Association
Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce
i2E
IBM
Independent Electrical Contractors
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Indium Corporation
Industrial Minerals Association - North America
Information Technology Industry Council
Ingersoll Rand
Innovate Educate
Intel Corporation
International Dairy Foods Association
International Technology and Engineering Educators Association
Investment Casting Institute
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Iowa Business Council
Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
Jimmy Doolittle Center
J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.
Jr. Achievement of Southern California
Junior Achievement of Southern California
KCnext - The Technology Council of Greater Kansas City
Kentucky Association of Manufacturers
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Komatsu America
Kuhn North America, Inc.
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce
Lord Corporation
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Association of Business & Industry
Louisiana Committee of 100 for Economic Development, Inc.
Lovejoy Chaplet Corp
Lumity
Madison-Kipp Corporation
Magnet Schools of America
Main Tape Company
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
Manufacturers Association of Florida
Manufacturing Skill Standards Council
Marlin Steel
Maryland Business Roundtable for Education
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
Massachusetts Business Roundtable
Mercy College
Metals Service Center Institute
MetroHartford Alliance
MGK
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Mid-Hudson Pattern for Progress
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota High Tech Association
Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association
Mississippi Manufacturers Association
Missouri Association of Manufacturers
Missouri Chamber of Commerce
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Molded Fiber Glass Tray Company
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Montana Manufacturing Council
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Mount Saint Mary College
NAACP
NAM
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS)
National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc)
National Association of Trailer Manufacturers
National Association of Workforce Development Professionals
National Cart Company LLC
National Center for Technological Literacy at the Museum of Science, Boston
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Council of State Directors of Adult Education
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Industries for the Blind
National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Science Education Leadership Association
National Skills Coalition
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company
Nevada Manufacturers Association
New England Council
New Hampton High School
New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA)
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation
New Mexico Business Roundtable
New York Technology Council (NYTECH)
New Hampshire High Technology Council
North American Signs, Inc.
North Carolina Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center
North Country Chamber of Commerce
Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers & Employers Association
Northrop Grumman Corporation
NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies
Opportunity Nation
Optimax Systems, Inc.
Oracle
Oregon Business Council
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA)
Partners for Education & Business
Partnership for New York City
Pathways to Prosperity Kansas/Missouri Regional Council
Philadelphia Works
Polaris Industries
Port Townsend Paper Corporation
Portland Cement Association
Power Transmission Distributors Association
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Puritan Medical Products Company LLC
Quality Float Works, Inc.
Ranger Die, Inc.
Rayonier Advanced Materials
Red Bud Industries, Inc.
Red Gold, Inc.
Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

Roaring Spring Blank Book Co.
Rockland Business Association
Rockwell Collins
RoMan Manufacturing Inc.
Round Rock Chamber of Commerce
Round Rock Independent Schools
Round Rock ISD CTE Department
Samsung
Samsung Austin Semiconductor, LLC
San Antonio Manufacturers Association
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
SASCO Chemical Group, Inc.
Science@OC
Semiconductor Equipment & Materials International (SEMI)
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)
State Chamber of Oklahoma
State Supervisor for Technology and Engineering Education
State Technical College of Missouri
State University of New York
STEM Education Coalition
STEMx
Students4STEM
Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc.
Sullivan-Palatek, Inc.
SUMCO Phoenix Corporation
Superior Graphite Co.
Symantec Corporation
Tag Team Manufacturing
Tech Association of Iowa
Tech Collective
Tech Collective-Rhode Island's Technology Council
Tech Council of MD
TechNet
Technology Association of Iowa
Technology Association of Louisville Kentucky
Technology Councils of North America (TECNA)
Technology Education Concepts, Inc.
Technology Student Association
Tennessee Association of Manufacturers
Texas Alliance of Minorities in Engineering (TAME)
Texas Association of Business
The American Tank and Fabricating Company
The BioScience Center
The Boeing Company
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.
The Business Council of Westchester
The Carpet and Rug Institute
The Chatfield Group

The College Board
The Council of Industry
The Guardian Life Insurance Co
The Manufacturers Alliance of New York
The Manufacturers Association of Central New York
The Mayor's Commission on Literacy
The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
The National Girls Collaborative Project
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association
The Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association
Thermcraft, Inc
Thermo Fisher Scientific/Fisher Science Education
Thinking Media - Learning Blade
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
Triangle Coalition for STEM Education
Trinity Industries, Inc.
Tyler Equipment Corporation
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
UNITE - LA
United Way of Central Ohio
United Way of New York State
United Way of New York State
United Way of Texas
United Way Silicon Valley
United Way Suncoast
United Ways of Texas
Universal Technical Institute
Uniweld Products In.
Valley Industrial Association
Vermont Chamber of Commerce
Vermont Technology Alliance
Vernier Software & Technology
West Virginia Manufacturers Association
Whayne Supply Company
Wider Opportunities for Women
WilliamsRDM
Wisconsin Valley Concrete
Woodland Hills School District
Woodwork Career Alliance of North America
Woodworking Machinery Industry Association (WMIA)
Workforce Development Institute Mohawk Valley
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce
Xerox Corporation