



June 26, 2020

The Construction Employers of America (CEA) writes to encourage the Committee on Rules to make **amendments #16, #17, #18 and #54 submitted by Congressman Donald Norcross** in order under the rule for floor consideration of H.R. 2, the INVEST in America Act [Moving Forward Act]. These amendments will ensure that the workforce development provisions of this important legislation provide participants in those programs the life-long skills and training necessary to compete in the 21st Century economy.

CEA is a coalition of seven premier national construction contracting associations who employ union craftworkers on construction and maintenance projects that build and maintain the nation's infrastructure. These men and women are among the most thoroughly trained and highly skilled construction industry professionals in the world, and allow our members to provide the highest quality, most cost-effective construction services to their customers. These high-skilled construction workers attain this level of proficiency by participating in privately funded rigorous joint labor-management registered apprenticeship programs.

Skilled labor is vital to the success of the construction industry, and our members have invested heavily in registered apprenticeship training programs for well over 65 years. Our members jointly operate with their labor partners over 1,100 apprenticeship training centers nationwide and make private investments of approximately \$1.3 billion a year in workforce training and apprenticeship programs. These privately funded programs ensure that graduates have the skills necessary for contractors to deliver safe, high quality construction services to their customers.

The amendments Congressman Norcross has submitted will ensure that programs under H.R. 2 incentivize utilization of qualified registered apprenticeship programs, and provide potential participants access to, as well as the skills necessary to succeed in these rigorous programs. As such, we encourage the Committee to make Congressman Norcross' amendments #16, #17, #18 and #54 in order.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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