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September 8, 2016

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thompson,

The National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) strongly supports the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 5587), legislation to reform and reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. NRCA commends you for your leadership on this critical legislation and urges approval of the bill by the House.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of professional roofing contractors worldwide. NRCA has approximately 3,500 members in all 50 states who are typically small, privately held companies, with the average member employing 45 people and attaining sales of about \$4.5 million per year.

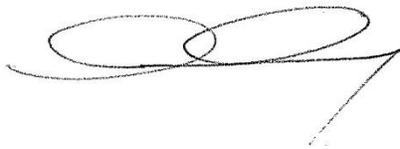
Workforce development is one of the greatest challenges facing NRCA members today, and reforming career and technical education (CTE) programs that operate under the Perkins Act will help our members address their workforce needs in the future. Given this pressing need within our membership, in 2015 NRCA and other associations working within the Opportunity America Job and Careers Coalition developed policy recommendations designed to make CTE programs more responsive to employers' workforce development needs. We are pleased to see that our recommendations have largely been incorporated into this legislation.

Given the adoption of these recommendations, we are confident that H.R. 5587 will provide for more effective engagement between roofing industry employers and educators in the development of CTE programs in the future. The reforms in this legislation will provide expanded opportunities for work-based learning and increase incentives that encourage the development of industry-recognized credentials. Additionally, we are also pleased that the bill will increase authorized funding levels over the next five years, starting at \$1.13 billion in FY 2017 and increasing to \$1.21 billion in FY 2022.

Again, NRCA strongly supports H.R. 5587 because the reforms in this legislation are needed to help our members address their workforce development needs in the future. NRCA urges approval of this bipartisan legislation by the full House and commends you for your leadership on this issue.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Duane Musser at 202-546-7584 or dmusser@nrca.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke that ends in a sharp downward-pointing tail.

Dennis Conway
Commercial Roofers, Inc.
Chairman of the Board, NRCA