



September 10, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal and Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 67 chapters representing more than 23,000 members, I write in support of HR. 9461, the USA Workforce Investment Act, introduced by Rep. Lloyd Smucker. By establishing a new federal tax credit, this legislation would encourage donations for community-based apprenticeship programs, career and technical education, workforce development and educational preparedness. The bill would also encourage partnerships with companies looking to sponsor these programs.

America's economic engine is fueled by a workforce equipped with durable and transferable skill sets. Apprenticeship and career technical education provide the tools for our nation's workforce to not only build America's vital infrastructure, but also cultivate long-lasting and rewarding career opportunities. Unfortunately, the construction industry is facing a dire need to attract additional workers into the industry in order to meet the demand for labor. In 2025, the industry will need to bring in nearly 454,000 new workers on top of the normal pace hiring to meet industry demand, and that's presuming that construction spending growth slows significantly next year.

Further, ABC estimates that the construction industry's federal and state registered apprenticeship systems yielded just 45,000 completers of four-to-five-year programs, and just 250,000 apprentices were enrolled in all construction industry registered apprenticeship programs in 2023. The federal and state registered systems alone fails to keep up with construction industry demand for skilled craft professionals. ABC has a network of more than 800 apprenticeship, craft, health and safety and management education programs—including more than [450 government-registered apprenticeship programs](#) across 20 different occupations.

ABC supports an all-of-the-above workforce development strategy, including industry-driven and government-registered apprenticeship programs, so that workers and employers have the freedom to choose the best way to provide value and help build and rebuild America.

ABC applauds Rep. Smucker for introducing the USA Workforce Investment Act and urges members of the House Committee on Ways and Means to approve the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Swearingen', written in a cursive style.

Kristen Swearingen  
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs