

February 6, 2018

The Honorable Paul Mitchell
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mitchell:

On behalf of the Michigan Works! System, we are writing to express our support for the ***Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills (BUILDS) Act*** (S. 1599).

This bill would prepare workers with the skills needed for jobs—in fields such as construction, transportation and energy—that would be created by a major investment in infrastructure.

The Michigan Works! Association is a non-profit membership organization that connects its membership and partners with resources to help them better serve employers and job seekers. With the widespread shortage of skilled labor in this country, Michigan Works! believes this legislation would provide much needed assistance to the countless businesses impacted by the workforce shortage.

The ***BUILDS Act*** promotes partnerships made up of local businesses and industry organizations, workforce boards, labor representatives and education and training providers to support workforce training programs in infrastructure-related jobs.

Specifically the ***BUILDS Act*** would leverage private sector partnerships to:

- Incentivize businesses and industry to work with the greater community to create on-the-job training programs to fill the jobs necessary to expand the country's infrastructure system
- Connect businesses and education providers to develop classroom curriculum to complement on-the-job learning
- Train managers and front-line workers to serve as mentors to people in the work-based learning programs
- Offer resources and career awareness programming to recruit and retain individuals for workforce training programs
- Provide support services to ensure workers are successful from pre-employment to placement in a full-time position

Grants awarded to Michigan employers will promote industry and sector partnerships to encourage growth and competitiveness and improve worker training, retention, and advancement.


We believe this Act will improve worker training and provide more resources for job training programs targeted toward in-demand infrastructure-related jobs. This will ensure that we can fill jobs quickly and help those on the economic sidelines get the skills they need to succeed.

Thank you for your support in leading the charge to address the skilled labor shortage.

Sincerely,



Luann Dunsford
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Works! Association



Charlotte (Charlie) Mahoney
President, Four-M Associates, LLC
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Michigan Works! Association