



May 11, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
332 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S. 1213 - Training America's Workforce Act

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

The National Demolition Association (NDA) represents nearly 500 U.S. and Canadian companies that offer standard demolition services as well as a full range of demolition-related services and products. NDA educates members on the latest advances in equipment and services, provides educational programs and tools to stay abreast of regulatory and safety matters and keeps regulators informed about issues in our industry. NDA also increases public awareness of the economic and societal benefits of demolition.

NDA writes today to express strong support for Senate bill S. 1213, the Training America's Workforce Act. This legislation would strengthen the American workforce development pipeline by making apprenticeship programs more adaptable and responsive to the workforce needs of small businesses, including demolition contractors. Specifically, S. 1213 would amend the National Apprenticeship Act to allow individuals to acquire tangible workforce skills in specific industries through on-the-job learning and classroom instruction, as well as an industry-recognized credential during participation in or upon completion of an industry-recognized apprenticeship program (IRAP).

For the last several years, NDA has expressed its concerns and raised awareness on Capitol Hill about the ongoing labor shortages in the nation's workforce and the negative effects it is having on the demolition industry. According to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics released on May 2, 2023, there are currently 9.6 million job openings in the United States. This includes nearly 341,000 unfilled job openings in the construction industry alone.¹ This economic data acutely conveys the difficult challenges facing U.S. employers and the urgent need for the federal government to prioritize policies that encourage a robust and skilled labor force.

NDA supports bipartisan solutions to address the labor crisis and calls on the Senate to work together on legislation that will improve the workforce development system and help alleviate labor shortages in the economy. To this end, NDA believes the Training America's Workforce Act would be a critical step in helping close the nation's "skills gap" and increasing the pool of qualified candidates for high-skilled jobs, including those on demolition sites. NDA urges both parties to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/jolts.a.htm>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this issue. Please contact NDA's Director of Government Affairs Alex McIntyre at amcintyre@demolitionassociation.com with any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lambert", written in a cursive style.

Jeff Lambert
Chief Executive Officer
National Demolition Association