



February 3, 2021

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), our nearly 4,000 contractors, and the \$171 billion industry we represent, I write to you today in strong support of HR. 447, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021. NECA commends this bipartisan effort which aims to strengthen the time-tested apprenticeship model that has sustained the level of excellence our contractors exhibit.

Our electrical industry apprenticeship program, a joint labor/management venture between NECA and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has given participants the opportunity to learn the electrical industry, while receiving good wages, health care and retirement benefits for over 70 years. With the combination of both on the job training (8,000 hours), classroom learning (900 hours), and remote virtual labs, our apprenticeship model offers the highest quality instruction at minimal cost to the apprentice or the Federal Government while producing the nation's finest electricians.

Even with this model firmly in place, more must be done. The National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 is a direct investment in our workforce, the trades, and entire electrical construction industry. It will invest more than \$3.5 billion toward expanding opportunities and access to apprenticeships in the United States in the next five years, totaling nearly 1 million new apprenticeship opportunities. NECA supports the National Apprenticeship Act and encourages Congress to push this legislation forward to help grow America's skilled workforce. We do however hold strong reservations over the following amendment made in order:

NECA Opposes

Amendment 29 (Hill, French): Changes the Title II funding partnership requirements to the extent practical to partner with an industry or with a labor or joint labor management organization.

- *This amendment would degrade the grants allotted to the time-tested and regulated, registered apprenticeship program by allowing for their funding to be used by fly-by-night 'apprenticeships' who do not willing partner with a joint labor management organization.*

Again, on behalf of our member companies across the country, we urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 447, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021, while VOTING NO on AMENDEMNT 29 (Hill, French). Thank you for your consideration and continued interest in strengthening America's apprenticeships.

Please direct any questions or comments to NECA Deputy Executive Director of Government Affairs, Trevor Falk at Trevor.Falk@necanet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marco A. Giamberardino".

Marco A. Giamberardino
Vice President, Government and Public Affairs