



Industrial Energy Consumers of America

The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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June 16, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Apprenticeships to Fill Vacant Jobs Executive Order

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the member companies of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), we applaud your move to support a stronger system of apprenticeship to match workers with millions of open jobs. It is needed at a time when employers are having a difficult time filling jobs that require specific skills.

Enhanced training and educational opportunities to help people get high-paying jobs is very important. There is a shortage of specifically trained workers across multiple job sectors, including manufacturing and agriculture.

Apprenticeships are few and far between. Of the 146 million jobs in the United States, about 0.35 percent — or slightly more than a half-million — were filled by active apprentices in 2016. And, a Business Roundtable survey released last week found that 95 percent of executives reported problems finding qualified workers, according to the Labor Department.

We look forward to working with the Administration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
President

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.0 trillion in annual sales, over 2,600 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.7 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through advocacy and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, automotive, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.