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The Honorable John Kline and Bobby Scott
U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of International Paper's 32,000 U.S. employees, I am pleased to share our support for the bipartisan Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act of 2016 (H.R. 5587), sponsored by Representatives G.T. Thompson (R-PA) and Katherine Clark (D-MA).

International Paper supports the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act because it:

- **Will grow the pipeline of skilled job candidates** ready to join our manufacturing team by promoting career and technical education in high school and post-secondary education programs.
- **Creates partnerships with local employers**, economic development agencies, and state and local workforce boards to ensure that federal career and technical education funding is directed toward in-demand local workforce needs.

The need for greater investment in the technical skills training of the American workforce is more pressing than ever. International Paper anticipates a significant loss of skilled employees – specifically manufacturing maintenance employees – at our manufacturing operations in the next decade.

The ManpowerGroup's Annual Talent Shortage Surveys from 2010 to 2015 each found that positions requiring skilled trades remained the hardest role for employers to fill. Because IP and other U.S. manufacturers may not have a sufficient pipeline of qualified job candidates to bridge the skills gap, operational and financial risks loom for U.S. businesses if our future workforce is not adequately prepared to work in a 21st century manufacturing environment.

We urge passage of H.R. 5587 that will better prepare the U.S. workforce for advanced manufacturing careers. Please contact me or Julie Alsup (julie.alsup@ipaper.com) if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

