



March 4, 2013

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Committee on Education & the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

On behalf of the National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR), I write to express support for the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act introduced by Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training Chairwoman Virginia Foxx. H.R. 803 is an updated version of Workforce Investment Act reform legislation introduced in the last Congress and will bring much-needed reform to the nation's job training programs.

Workforce development and training programs can be vital to people who have lost their jobs, especially in this challenging economy, but these programs can only succeed if individuals know where to find help and can access that help with ease and simplicity. The SKILLS Act consolidates the confusing and duplicative maze of 35 federal job training and retraining programs into one Workforce Investment Fund and clears away unnecessary roadblocks so that those seeking help can find it quickly and receive services without delays. In addition, the SKILLS Act makes important changes to the governance and operation of state and local workforce investment boards by strengthening the role of local employers who are well-positioned to know about the workforce skills needed in the local economy and can help structure training programs and delivery in ways that are best for their communities.

The improvements included in the SKILLS Act make sense and are long overdue. We applaud you and Representative Foxx for the initiative in bringing this legislation forward and urge members of the Committee to support H.R. 803 when it is marked up this week.

Thank you for considering these views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Green".

Robert J. Green
Executive Director