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September 6, 2016

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (H.R. 5587)*.

Dear Majority Leader McCarthy and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM), a national trade association representing more than 97 percent of U.S. refiners and the majority of petrochemical manufacturers, supports the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (H.R. 5587)* and urges the House of Representatives to pass this important legislation.

The Act reauthorizes and improves the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act of 2006*. To align career education with in-demand jobs, the Act facilitates deeper collaboration between educational institutions, business, and industry. Importantly, H.R. 5587 incentivizes programs to promote the recognition of postsecondary credentials—including industry-recognized certifications. The legislation will also help CTE programs meet the needs of states, regions, and local labor markets.

America's refining and petrochemical community employs and supports over three million people, hiring individuals from all education levels to fill a wide range of positions (such as welders, electricians, chemists, and engineers). The industry is experiencing a strong need for new, technically-skilled employees as a result of the increasing domestic production of shale oil and natural gas. Demand for skilled workers will only grow in the coming decade as a generation of workers retires. CTE reauthorization will not only help ensure that our nation's students are equipped with skills needed to enter the workforce, but will specifically foster career growth in the refining and petrochemical sectors.



AFPM applauds the bipartisan commitment to reauthorize CTE, and strongly recommend that the House move forward with passage of H.R. 5587.

Sincerely,

Chet Thompson  
President  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers

cc: The Honorable John Kline, Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce