

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Bobby Rush
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: H.R. 1315, The "Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019"

Dear Chairman Rush:

Thank you for introducing H.R. 1315, the "Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019." The Alliance to Save Energy appreciates your commitment to the critical issue of energy efficiency workforce development.

America is in dire need of an educated and trained energy workforce to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and its evolving energy industry. More than 60% of energy efficiency employers have reported some difficulty in hiring qualified workers due to a lack of experience, training, or technical skills among applicants, according to the U.S. Energy and Employment Report. This skills gap must be addressed to support an industry that created 67,000 jobs in 2017 and includes more than 2.25 million workers.

Energy efficiency is our nation's most abundant energy resource. Without the gains in energy efficiency made since 1973, the U.S. economy would today require 60% more energy than we currently consume. Between then and today, U.S. gross domestic product has tripled while energy consumption has only risen by about 40%. Improving energy efficiency is the single most effective policy strategy we have for addressing the threat of climate change, while also representing an extraordinary bipartisan opportunity to boost economic growth.

The Alliance looks forward to working with you this Congress to strengthen this legislation and secure the support it needs to pass the House and Senate on a bipartisan basis. We know that with your leadership, we can achieve the necessary policies to support a growing energy efficiency workforce that will improve the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jason Hartke, Ph.D.
President