



BACKGROUND

NACA and its individual members support an array of federal policies and programs to incentivize the offering and undertaking of career and technical education, with an emphasis on trades and on-the-job training to develop marketable skills to meet the demands of the 21st century economy.

A study by the Center of Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University estimated that a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment would create 11 million new jobs, nearly half of which would require skilled job training beyond a high school level. This study underscores the urgency of investing in workforce development: already, 83% of construction firms report difficulty filling positions. Without increasing America's skilled construction workforce, we will struggle to find the workers to build our infrastructure.

Of particular concern to the cement and concrete industry is the lack of drivers for heavy trucks. The American Trucking Association estimates that there is a shortage of 60,000 drivers, and analysis by the Journal of Commerce indicates the shortage may be more severe.

KEY LEGISLATION

DRIVE-Safe Act. In an effort to fully utilize the industry's existing pool of drivers, NACA members support the DRIVE-Safe Act. This bipartisan legislation seeks to lift federal restrictions on drivers at least 18 years of age but under the age of 21 operating commercial motor vehicles across state lines.

Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills (BUILDS) Act. The BUILDS Act [promotes](#) sector partnerships made up of local businesses and industry organizations, workforce boards, labor representatives and education and training providers to support workforce training programs in infrastructure-related jobs. The BUILDS Act was included in the House-passed H.R. 2, Moving America Forward Act.

Promoting Service in Transportation Act. This [bill](#) would authorize the development of public awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of and address the need for professional truck drivers, mechanics and other transportation professionals.

JOBS Act. This [legislation](#) would amend the Higher Education Act to expand Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in high-quality job training programs that are at least eight weeks in length and lead to industry-recognized credentials and certificates. NACA members also support including this policy in a Higher Education Act reauthorization.

Workforce for an Expanding Economy Act. This legislation creates a temporary worker immigration program for the construction industry. Immigration reform can help address the labor shortage in the U.S. and a construction guest worker program should be part of the solution.

SOLUTION

Support inclusion of workforce development programs in infrastructure or surface reauthorization legislation