August 26, 2019

Minnesota State Legislature
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Adele Gagliardi, Administrator
Office of Policy Development and Research
U.S. Department of Labor,
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Room N-5641,
Washington, DC 20210

RE: U.S. DOL Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Implementation Proposed Rule - RIN 1205-AB85

Administrator Gagliardi:

As Legislators from all across the State of Minnesota, we write to affirm the value of Registered Apprenticeship programs in training the safest, most highly skilled construction workforce for the State of Minnesota, and to express our support for the permanent exemption for the construction industry in the proposed rule: Apprenticeship Programs, Labor Standards for Registration, Amendment of Regulations (1205-AB85).

There are currently over 10,000 Registered Apprentices in Minnesota in more than 50 privately funded construction Registered Apprenticeship Programs training to be our State’s future plumbers, electricians, iron workers, crane operators, laborers, carpenters and other highly skilled trades workers. Registered Apprenticeships have been the pathway for more women and minorities to enter the construction trades and Minnesota contractors, business owners, and communities rely on Registered Apprenticeship programs to train our future construction workers to grow our State’s economy and ensure our safety.

Unfortunately, if expanded to include the construction industry, the proposed rules would undermine the integrity and drive down the training and labor standards in construction Registered Apprenticeship programs, setting off a race to the bottom in Minnesota’s construction industry. Minnesota is not willing to jeopardize the quality of its construction and the safety and security of its construction workforce.

The public is also at risk. Having the safest roads, bridges, schools and utilities requires the best trained workers with the highest level of skill. Anything less, especially an untested training program with lowered standards, will put public safety at risk.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Labor ensure that the construction industry be permanently excluded from these proposed rules and that Registered Apprenticeship be preserved as the system for training our State’s current and future construction workforce.

Sincerely,
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Senator Paul T. Anderson
Minnesota Senate
11, R

Senator Roger Chamberlain
Minnesota Senate
38, R

Senator Scott Jensen
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47, R

Senator Mary Kiffmeyer
Minnesota Senate
30, R

Senator Jason Rarick
Minnesota Senate
11, R

Senator Karla Bigham
Minnesota Senate
54, DFL

Senator Richard Cohen
Minnesota Senate
64, DFL

Senator Scott Dibble
Minnesota Senate
61, DFL

Senator Kent Eken
Minnesota Senate
4, DFL

Senator Melisa Franzen
Minnesota Senate
49, DFL

Senator Jeff Hayden
Minnesota Senate
62, DFL

Senator John Hoffman
Minnesota Senate
36, DFL
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Senator Matt Klein
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52, DFL

Senator Ron Latz
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46, DFL

Senator Jerry Newton
Minnesota Senate
37, DFL

Senator Ann Rest
Minnesota Senate
45, DFL

Senator Erik Simonson
Minnesota Senate
7, DFL

Senator Chuck Wiger
Minnesota Senate
43, DFL

Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn
Minnesota House of Representatives
42B, DFL

Rep. Robert Bierman
Minnesota House of Representatives
57A, DFL

Rep. Jeff Brand
Minnesota House of Representatives
19A, DFL

Rep. Hunter Cantrell
Minnesota House of Representatives
56A, DFL

Rep. Shelly Christensen
Minnesota House of Representatives
39B, DFL

Rep. Anne Claflin
Minnesota House of Representatives
54A, DFL

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Rep. Jim Davnie
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63A, DFL

Rep. Rob Ecklund
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3A, DFL

Rep. Steve Elkins
Minnesota House of Representatives
49B, DFL

Rep. Mike Freiberg
Minnesota House of Representatives
45B, DFL

Rep. Aisha Gomez
Minnesota House of Representatives
62B, DFL

Rep. Laurie Halverson
Minnesota House of Representatives
51B, DFL

Rep. Rick Hansen
Minnesota House of Representatives
52A, DFL

Rep. Alice Hausman
Minnesota House of Representatives
66A, DFL

Rep. Michael Howard
Minnesota House of Representatives
50A, DFL

Rep. John Huot
Minnesota House of Representatives
57B, DFL

Rep. Ginny Klevorn
Minnesota House of Representatives
44A, DFL

Rep. Erin Koegel
Minnesota House of Representatives
37A, DFL
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Rep. Jeanne Poppe
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Rep. Steve Sandell
Minnesota House of Representatives
53B, DFL

Rep. Julie Sandstede
Minnesota House of Representatives
6A, DFL

Rep. Duane Sauke
Minnesota House of Representatives
25B, DFL

Rep. Jennifer Schultz
Minnesota House of Representatives
7A, DFL

Rep. Zack Stephenson,
Minnesota House of Representatives

36A, DFL

Rep. Mike Sundin
Minnesota House of Representatives
11A, DFL

Rep. Brad Tabke
Minnesota House of Representatives
55A, DFL

Rep. Ryan Winkler
Minnesota House of Representatives
46A, DFL

Rep. Jay Xiong
Minnesota House of Representatives
67B, DFL

Rep. Cheryl Youakim
Minnesota House of Representatives
46B, DFL
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Representative Dan Fabian
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 1A, R

Representative Deb Kiel
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 1B, R

Representative Sandy Layman
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 5B, R

Representative John Poston
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 9A, R

Representative Ron Kresha
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 9B, R

Representative Dale Lueck
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 10B, R

Representative Tama Theis
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 14A, R

Representative Sondra Erickson
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 15A, R

Representative Dave Baker
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 17B, R

Representative Dean Urdahl
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 18A, R
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Representative Bob Dettmer
Minnesota House of Representatives
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Representative Jim Nash
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 47A, R

Representative Greg Boe
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 47B, R

Representative Tony Albright
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 55B, R

Representative Pat Garofalo
Minnesota House of Representatives
House District 58B, R