

RESOLUTION NUMBER 17-06
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERALLY REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

WHEREAS, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is an industry-driven public organization comprised of representatives from business and industry, education, organized labor, and government; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB is a public organization that is accountable through its members and staff to the residents, the Legislature, and the Governor of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB shall act as the lead state planning and coordinating entity for state programs involving employment training, workforce development, and career, technical, and vocational education; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB recognizes that Alaska must have a highly skilled and educated workforce for a strong economy, stable employment rates, and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship is cornerstone of Alaska's workforce development system, with well-documented outcomes including productivity growth for companies and high wages for participants; and

WHEREAS, Alaska employers and employer associations are undertaking an unprecedented expansion of Registered Apprenticeship, with innovative new apprenticeships in the health care, maritime, education, and aviation industries; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has implemented policies to support and sustain longstanding construction apprenticeships, including with the Governor's Administrative Order 278; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has developed a system of apprenticeship in which the state conducts outreach and recruitment to complement the USDOL Office of Apprenticeship's registration and oversight functions; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's employers and apprentices alike benefit from the program integrity and quality assurance that are obligatory with Registered Apprenticeship; and

WHEREAS, the USDOL Office of Apprenticeship's oversight is essential to the apprenticeship system, because without it employers and participants could not depend on the accountability and quality of apprenticeship programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. President has issued an Executive Order directing the U.S. Secretary of Labor to consider regulations regarding Registered Apprenticeship;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Workforce Investment Board urges the U.S. Secretary of Labor to maintain USDOL registration and oversight over Registered Apprenticeships, since accountability and quality are essential for the continued success of the apprenticeship system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Workforce Investment Board believes that the Registered Apprenticeship system is efficient and effective, with a balance of quality control and sufficient flexibility for employers, states, and regions to tailor apprenticeship to their unique needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Workforce Investment Board supports efforts to expand Registered Apprenticeship, including with continuation and augmentation of federal funding.

CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board held a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, and convened this 25th day of October, 2017 and the foregoing Resolution was adopted unanimously at said meeting.

Signed this 25th day of October, 2017



Larry Bell, Chair

Alaska Workforce Investment Board