



U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), I am writing in **strong opposition of amendment number #139 offered by Rep. French Hill to H.R. 2740 - Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Legislative Branch, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2020.**

This amendment is an attempt to allow the use of grant funds for industry-recognized apprenticeship programs (IRAPs) on the same level as Department of Labor registered apprenticeship programs.

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Training and Employment Notice 03-8 (TEN), outlines a process that will allow trade associations and other non-governmental entities to certify and utilize Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) pursuant to the National Apprentice Act of 1937 ("Fitzgerald" Act). IRAPs were initially proposed as a method for bridging the skills gap in industries that lacked a high percentage of registered apprenticeships. However, there have been recent discussions as how to extend this program to the construction industry. NECA is concerned that these IRAPs would operate with little oversight by the federal government yet be granted the same status as a traditional DOL registered apprenticeship.

Thank you for your consideration of these views. As the nationally recognized voice of the \$171 billion electrical construction industry, NECA and our 118 local chapters nationwide **urge you to oppose the Hill amendment #139.** This vote will be included in the NECA Legislative Report Card for the 116th Congress.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact my staff at any time by reaching out to James Farrell, Manager of Government Affairs at [James.Farrell@necanet.org](mailto:James.Farrell@necanet.org) or 301-215-4537.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marco A. Giamberardino". The signature is written in a cursive style. In the background, there are several faint, light blue stars of varying sizes.

Marco A. Giamberardino, MPA  
Executive Director, Government Affairs

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