



NECA Asks for 2023

Enact the Leveraging and Energizing America's Apprenticeship Programs (LEAP) Act

NECA contractors, both small businesses and major corporations, contribute approximately \$300 million annually to our apprenticeship and training programs across the country. A career in the construction trades offers an opportunity for a substantive post-secondary education at a minimal cost to the participants and at no cost to the federal government. Congress should promote existing skilled apprenticeship programs as an option for post-secondary education that offers a real education, economic growth, and a debt-free pathway.

Enact the LEAP Act to:

- Allow a one-time \$1,500 tax credit for hiring new apprentices.
- Encourage the creation of pre-apprenticeship programs that can provide a pathway to Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Cosponsor the Leveraging and Energizing America's Apprenticeship Programs (LEAP) Act (H.R. 1536), sponsored by Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL).

Enact Small Business Payment for Performance Act

Changes to a contract, commonly known as "change orders," inevitably occur on construction projects. On federal projects, the government may issue change orders without the contractors' consent and often do not abide by change order rules, like formalizing change orders in writing. Many times, where the parties cannot agree on the cost or scope of a change, the Agency will issue a unilateral change in which the Government sets forth the scope and what it sees as the value for a changed condition. This often results in significant financial hardship to contractors, small and large alike, as they and their subcontractors must effectively finance the changed work until the agency agrees to the cost of that unilateral change.

- Ensure small business contractors are able to perform federal government construction projects by having an equitable adjustment policy in place.
- Ensure the federal government pays small business contractors upfront for change orders to ensure they are able to have the cash flow to do the extra work.

Cosponsor the Small Business Payment for Performance Act (H.R. 2726) introduced by Congressman Pete Stauber (R-MN).