



March 4, 2013

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 803, the “Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act”

Dear Representative Foxx:

On behalf of the National Restaurant Association, we write with regards to H.R. 803, the “Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act,” and to thank you for your leadership on this issue. We strongly support the SKILLS Act strengthening role given to employers within the workforce investment system, as well as the fact that it provides individuals necessary training from the start.

The National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant and food service industry. The industry is the nation’s second-largest private-sector employer comprised of 980,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets employing 13.1 million people—about ten percent of the U.S. workforce. In addition, our industry provides millions of Americans with their first job and the critical skills training needed for a successful and rewarding career. In fact, one out of three adults got their first job experience in a restaurant. Despite its size, small businesses dominate the industry; even larger chains are often collections of smaller franchised businesses.

As our nation continues to struggle with persistently high unemployment, job seekers are faced with a confusing and ineffective maze of job training programs. We support this legislation’s attempt at streamlining workforce training programs and at providing workers more effective job training services. Attention should continue to be given to programs serving workers with limited basic education and English skills.

Again, thank you for introducing the SKILLS Act. We look forward to continue working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Amador".

Angelo I. Amador, Esq.
Vice President
Labor & Workforce Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. P. Kearney".

Ryan P. Kearney
Manager
Labor & Workforce Policy