EASA
The Electro•Mechanical Authority
1331 Baur Boulevard • St. Louis, Missouri 63132 • +1 314 993 2220 • Fax +1 314 993 1269 • www.easa.com

July 7, 2026

**The Honorable Burgess Owens**
**Chairman**
**Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development**
**United States House of Representatives**
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

**The Honorable Alma Adams**
**Ranking Member**
**Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development**
**United States House of Representatives**
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

**Letter for the Record: Hearing on "Workforce Rewired: Modern Apprenticeships for a Modern Economy"**

Dear Chairman Owens, Ranking Member Adams, and Subcommittee Members:

The Electrical Apparatus Service Association ("EASA") commends the Subcommittee's attention to the need and opportunity to promote American competitiveness by investing in efficient industry aligned apprenticeship programs. EASA respectfully submits this letter for the record to urge the Subcommittee to direct the Department of Labor (DOL, Employment and Training Administration) to recognize electromechanical technicians as eligible recipients of federal workforce and training apprenticeship funding.

EASA is the leading international non-profit association representing companies that repair, service, and sell industrial and commercial electromechanical equipment—electric motors, generators, pumps, and other critical equipment. Founded in 1933, EASA supports 1,100+ small businesses and more than 40,000 highly trained American technicians across all 50 states, with members present in more than 70 countries.

EASA's mission is directly relevant to the bipartisan themes raised at the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development's June 24, 2026, hearing entitled "Workforce Rewired: Modern Apprenticeships for a Modern Economy." Chairman Burgess Owens opened the hearing by observing that across the country, millions of Americans are seeking pathways into long-lasting careers, which have for too long been concentrated on a single pathway through traditional four-year education when the nation's workforce is far too varied and its economy far too dynamic for a one-size-fits-all approach. Ranking Member Alma Adams similarly underscored that registered apprenticeships are the gold standard of workforce training, noting that apprentices earn nationally

recognized credentials and that nine of ten apprentices remain employed after completing their program.

EASA's experience reflects precisely the skills cliff and economic urgency both leaders described—and demonstrates why electromechanical technician training, which is not currently eligible for federal apprenticeship funding, must be brought into this system.

**A Critical Skills Cliff**

The American electromechanical industry is facing an aging workforce that presents a critical skills cliff for the companies that keep mission-critical machinery powered and running. With the average age of our technicians exceeding 50, EASA anticipates that 25–30 percent of our industry's 40,000 technicians will retire over the next five years. As a result, the electromechanical industry needs to train and hire at least 10,000 skilled technicians by 2030.

These are highly skilled, high-paying jobs essential to servicing equipment for critical minerals, nuclear energy, petrochemical plants, semiconductor fabrication, AI infrastructure development, manufacturing, water/wastewater systems and much more. EASA members frequently serve as "911" response teams for critical infrastructure, helping communities recover from natural disasters and other shocks to electrical grids.

**Apprenticeship as the Path Forward**

EASA shares Congress's and the Administration's goal of expanding non-degree educational pathways, including on-the-job training, that lead to stable, good-paying careers in industries vital to the national interest. We support reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). We also recognize Congress is unlikely to pass comprehensive federal workforce legislation this year—which makes administrative action through DOL's registered apprenticeship system all the more urgent.

Unlike peer nations, the United States does not have a nationally recognized electromechanical apprenticeship program. These workers, essential to servicing equipment across multiple sectors of our economy, remain excluded from federal workforce and training funding.

EASA's Electromechanical Repair Technician Certificate Program (ERT Program) is well-positioned to close this gap. The ERT Program combines 155 hours of online coursework with 1,500 hours of supervised work experience in electromechanical safety, maintenance, and repair, typically completed in 10–12 months. In addition, EASA recently developed an Advanced Electromechanical Repair Technician program providing approximately 325 hours of coursework and 4,000 hours of on-the-job learning (competency based). We have submitted this two-year program to DOL for approval as a registered apprenticeship and hope to have approval soon.

EASA applauds DOL's work to develop industry-driven, registered standards and believes our Advanced ERT Program is in line with your goals.

**Why This Matters Now**

As Chairman Owens noted, apprenticeships are seeing new approaches that integrate education and work and are expanding well beyond the traditional skilled trades into healthcare, technology, and other emerging fields—even as the Department of Labor works toward the Administration's goal of reaching and surpassing 1 million active apprentices. Ranking Member Adams cautioned, however, that reaching that goal will require funding and capacity that match the rhetoric – and several witnesses testified on June 24, that current growth is not on pace to meet it without deliberate action. EASA agrees that funding, modernization, and sustained federal commitment must accompany any expansion of the apprenticeship system.

While artificial intelligence is transforming much of the workforce, demand for skilled electromechanical technicians to service and repair electric motors will outpace our industry's ability to train them, underscoring the urgency to act. It is essential that the Advanced ERT Program, and other industry-sponsored programs like it, be recognized as RA programs eligible for federal funding.

Given the imminent workforce transition facing our industry over the next five years, EASA is seeking Congress's support in accelerating its registered apprenticeship process to address this skills gap. EASA respectfully requests that the Subcommittee direct the Department of Labor to recognize electromechanical technicians as eligible recipients of federal workforce and training apprenticeship funding. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter for the hearing record.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Raynes, CAE
President & CEO