



Paula R. Glover  
President & CEO

April 10, 2019

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rush and Ranking Member Upton:

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE or Association) is writing in support of H.R. 1315, the “Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019.” AABE is the premiere energy professional association representing the interests of African American leaders and employees in the energy industry, and the communities of color they serve. The Association consists of over 2000 members nation-wide, including 40 chapters covering 28 states and the District of Columbia. Our mission is to provide direct input into the deliberations and developments of energy policies, regulations, emerging technologies, and environmental issues, particularly as these issues impact African American and underserved communities.

H.R. 1315 is pivotal and foundational. The legislation achieves the necessary result of: (1) identifying representative participation of diversity in the energy industry; (2) developing mechanisms and best practices to support successful education and training; (3) authorizing funding to support education and training; and (4) laying the groundwork for diversity in the future of energy.

Today’s energy landscape and the infrastructure supporting it are experiencing significant, rapid, and dynamic change. Innovation is occurring at a rate and speed limited only by technology. Notwithstanding existing industry efforts to create a more diverse workforce, H.R. 1315 provides industry the essential tools needed to successfully implement diversity strategies, hire a diverse workforce, and through training and education ensure diversity retention. The bill correctly focuses on where the industry is today, and where the industry is going—with a particular focus on grid and distribution modernization, renewables, and energy efficiency.

Thank you Chairman Rush for your leadership in introducing the “Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019,” and for being the champion of diverse participation in the energy industry. We also thank the Subcommittee for its consideration, and urge passage of H.R. 1315. We look forward to working with you in the future on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula R. Glover". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Paula R. Glover  
President & CEO