



Duke Energy
550 South Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Mailing Address:
PO Box 1321
Charlotte, NC 28201

The Honorable Bobby Rush
2188 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Rush:

On behalf of Duke Energy, we are pleased to support the "Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019" to establish a nationwide program to improve education and training for jobs in energy-related fields. We appreciate your leadership as we continue to think creatively about how to remove barriers for women, minorities and veterans to enter the energy industry.

Duke Energy is one of the largest electric power holding companies in the United States, providing electricity to 7.6 million retail customers across the Southeast and in the Midwest representing a population of approximately 24 million Americans (Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina). Our company also provides natural gas to 1.6 million customers in five states and operates a growing renewable energy portfolio across the country.

As we transform our customers' experience, modernize our energy grid and generate cleaner energy, we are planning for tomorrow's energy workforce to ensure we can meet these evolving demands. With nearly 40 percent of our workforce eligible to retire within the next three years, we are committed to attracting and retaining employees that reflect the communities we serve and recognize the need for greater alignment between course curriculum and in demand energy jobs. That's why we are building partnerships with community colleges, military bases, underrepresented groups and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to close the skills gap and accelerate the time in which potential employees can begin a career in energy.

Attracting and retaining lineworkers is an area of focus for us and we offer extensive training for these individuals who maintain and restore equipment essential to providing reliable energy to our customers. By establishing an energy workforce grant program within DOE for utilities like ours, the Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act will support our commitment to expand access to energy jobs and meet our customers' demands.

For additional information, please contact Colleen Moss (colleen.moss@duke-energy.com; 202-824-8010). We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Joni Davis
VP Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Talent Acquisition & Workforce Development

Stan Sherrill
VP Strategic HR Business Solutions, Employee & Labor Relations