



U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
H.R. 4526, the 21st Century Energy Workforce Development Jobs Initiative Act of 2014  
Testimony of Jack N. Gerard  
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Good morning Chairman Whitfield, Ranking Member Rush, and members of the Subcommittee.

My name is Jack Gerard, president and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute, the only national trade association representing all facets of the oil and natural gas industry, which supports 9.8 million U.S. jobs and 8 percent of the U.S. economy.

API's more than 600 members include large integrated companies, as well as exploration and production, refining, marketing, pipeline, and marine businesses, and service and supply firms. Our extensive network of 30,000 vendors, suppliers, and contractors create and support jobs and grow the economy in every state in the union and almost every Congressional district.

The unprecedented opportunity created by America's 21<sup>st</sup> century energy renaissance, which is a direct result of technical advances in the U.S. oil and natural gas industry. If we seize this moment in our history and work together on energy policies that promote the safe and responsible development of our nation's enormous energy resources, our industry will not only create and support millions of well-paying jobs far into the future, but also make America a global energy superpower for generations.

To better understand the scope and reach of the economic opportunity our industry could provide the nation, API commissioned IHS Global to examine potential job opportunities through 2030.

The report, "Minority and Female Employment in the Oil & Gas and Petrochemical Industries," estimates that over 950,000 job opportunities could be created by 2020 and nearly 1.3 million job opportunities through 2030 across the country in the oil and natural gas and petrochemicals industry. These are good paying careers that pay well above the national average.

The West South Central Region is projected to have the most growth, totaling more than 508,000 jobs, or 40% of total U.S. job opportunities through 2030. Four additional regions are projected to each have over 100,000 job opportunities, and they include the Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, Mountain and Pacific. The New England, East South Central, East North Central, and West North Central regions will combine to contribute over 236,000 job opportunities.

The jobs the oil and natural gas industry creates will require people with a wide range of skill sets, training and educational achievement levels, meaning that the opportunities we offer are not limited to a few highly skilled or specialized workers within a particular region of the country.

What the report makes clear is that this nation will not be able to fulfill its potential as a global energy leader without more hands on deck, particularly minority and female workers. The report estimates that there are nearly 408,000 job opportunities that could be filled by African American and Hispanic workers, with 185,000 being filled by women. African American and Hispanic workers are projected to make up nearly 20% of new hires in management, business, and financial jobs through 2030. These estimates are based on current and projected trends in factors such as labor force participation rates and educational attainment, and should be considered a floor, not a ceiling for job opportunities. In order to be competitive for all 1.3 million jobs, certain education and workforce training must occur.

And that's where H.R. 4526, the 21st Century Energy Workforce Development Jobs Initiative Act of 2014, comes in; I want to thank Congressman Rush for introducing this bill and for his continued spirit of collaboration to advance economic opportunity for millions of Americans.

I also want to thank the other cosponsors of the bill, including Chairman Ed Whitfield, Congressman Bill Johnson, and Congressman Gene Green for their continued leadership on this issue.

H.R. 4526 will help achieve our shared goal of fuller participation by more Americans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century American energy renaissance by streamlining the coordination between the various sectors within the energy industry and the federal government, creating guidelines for training, encouraging STEM education that will expand the pool of qualified workers at all levels of educational achievement and by working with State Energy Offices to provide high school career counselors with regional job opportunities.

The bill will also enhance the productive working relationship with North America's Building Trades Unions who have been an invaluable partner with the oil and gas industry by working with labor to identify and train a workforce with the credentials needed to compete in all skill levels in the energy industry.

Put simply H.R. 4526 helps bring our nation closer to the day when the tremendous job creation and economic growth brought about by America's vast energy resources are no longer projections, but reality for millions more Americans.

That is why API strongly supports H.R. 4526 and encourages the committee to quickly consider and pass the legislation.

Thank you for your time.