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Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT) is the trade organization for contractors and construction workers in Vermont. We are Vermont's leading provider of industry specific training, Occupational and Safety Health Administration (OSHA) and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) certifications and are home to nationally recognized safety instructors. Our members employ 15,000-20,000 in Vermont annually with careers offering incomes and benefits well above Vermont's livable wage. The association works directly with state agencies including the Agency of Transportation, Building and General Services, Agency of Education and Department of Labor to enhance delivery of service to the state.

AGC/VT audits, evaluates and provides certifications for many programs attached to career technical centers and other VT tech programs. A short list of programs includes working in confined spaces, crane operator certification, electrical code updates, first aid CPR, multiple OSHA and MSHA certifications, traffic control technician, TQP fire code updates, federally recognized heavy equipment operator courses, supervisor and estimator training, NCCER curriculum and more.

In addition to the contractor association AGC/VT also represents Vermont's Independent Electrical Contractor Association (VIECA) who has apprenticeship programs that would benefit by the passing of the workforce training allocations in H.533.

AGC/VT is intrigued and appreciative of the efforts to improve outcomes for new Americans as they will certainly benefit Vermont's labor force in all verticals. Our members estimate a shortfall of 2000 employees over the coming 18 months, so we welcome new youth entrance from career centers, adults utilizing CTE and new American Vermonters.

We urge the Senate to pass H.533 as the workforce shortage in Vermont is only growing with attrition of retiring and relocating skilled labor. AGC/VT, its members and countless other employers are investing in workforce development, but more help is needed. We believe this proposal will help grow the workforce, promote diversity, improve Vermonter outcomes and help keep costs down for state projects.

Thank you,

Matt Musgrave
AGC/VT