



May 9, 2012

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the employers and businesses in our communities, we urge you to prevent the closure of Job Corps centers. The Detroit Regional Chamber is involved in our area's workforce development system and we are familiar with the good work of our local Jobs Corps center.

Job Corps works for employers. The Detroit center works closely with local businesses to ensure that their need for a skilled workforce is met. These employers actively work with the Job Corps center to ensure that training is customized to meet the needs of our labor market. Few other programs offer local employers a comparable opportunity to shape curricula. Small businesses here work closely with their Job Corps centers because these centers reliably produce skilled and responsible workers who can contribute to a small business' growth.

Most importantly, Job Corps works. It is our nation's most effective career preparation program for economically disadvantaged youth ages 16 to 24. More than most communities, Detroit needs education and training programs for low income youth. Our business community is heavily invested in education in Detroit. We strongly urge the Federal Government to join us in this commitment to ensuring that young people, particularly those who are economically disadvantaged, are prepared for jobs that increasingly require greater skills. This is good for young people and it's good for our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory Handel".

Gregory Handel

Senior Director, Workforce Development

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