



THE CHAMBER

Reno·Sparks·Northern Nevada

May 11, 2012

The Honorable Shelley Berkley
Office of U.S. Representative Shelley Berkley
405 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Berkley:

On behalf of the employers and businesses in our communities, we urge you to prevent the closure of Job Corps centers. The Job Corps program and our local center, Sierra Nevada Job Corps, is vital to our community. The loss of Job Corps centers would be devastating to our economy, both at a local and national level.

Job Corps works for employers. No national career preparation program is more closely allied with local and regional employers and their needs. In particular, local employers work with Sierra Nevada Job Corps for their employment needs within the 16 different trades the center offers. Nationally, Job Corps offers 100 different trades in 11 major industries. No other program offers local employers a comparable opportunity to shape curricula in so many occupations. Our local businesses choose to work with Job Corps because the program produces skilled and responsible workers who can contribute to small business' growth. Job Corps also works for our local communities. Every dollar invested in the program results in about \$2 in economic activity in the local economy because of the purchasing of goods and services in the community. Also, Sierra Nevada Job Corps supports the jobs of 230 staff members in Nevada. Nationally, the 125 Job Corps centers support 30,000 jobs, the vast majority of which are in the private sector.

Most importantly, Job Corps works. It is our nation's most effective career preparation program for economically disadvantaged youth, ages 16 to 24. These are youth who might otherwise cost our communities and taxpayers billions of dollars over the course of their lifetimes. Job Corps reverses that drain because 85 percent of graduates secure a job, enter higher education, or enlist in the military. Job Corps is also one of the only programs to offer detailed, concrete metrics to evaluate its success and the program's return on investment.

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To ensure our nation and country have continued economic growth and a well-trained workforce, we have a responsibility to invest in smart programs that have a proven track record of success. Job Corps is one of the most worthwhile investments toward these goals. For the sake of the youth the program services, the employers who hire them, and our communities, Congress should prevent the closure of any of the 125 Job Corps centers across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Len Stevens", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Len Stevens

Executive Director

The Chamber— Reno, Sparks & Northern Nevada