

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

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LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5090

June 5, 2007

Dear Senator:

I am writing to request your support for an amendment to be offered by Sen. Sanders to S. 1419 the "Energy Savings Act of 2007."

The Sanders amendment would establish the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program to train workers for good-paying jobs in clean energy design, manufacturing, installation, construction, operation, and maintenance. This program would help U.S. workers get good jobs in an industry expected to experience rapid growth as our nation refits and rebuilds its energy infrastructure, and would help the U.S. economy take advantage of emerging environmental technologies.

To ensure that the benefits from new investments in our national energy infrastructure are distributed equitably, the Sanders amendment would give priority to partnerships that train veterans, workers displaced by globalization or environmental policies, and disadvantaged workers and communities. In addition, to allow for the delivery of training unique to specialized geographic and industry needs, the Sanders amendment balances grants between national, regional, and state workforce development programs.

As Congress considers legislation designed to reduce our country's reliance on foreign sources of fossil fuels, we believe it should also invest in the domestic workforce. American workers should have every opportunity to acquire the skills necessary for job opportunities that will be created by new investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

The AFL-CIO strongly urges you to support and cosponsor the Sanders amendment. To become a cosponsor, please call Jessica Maher in Sen. Sanders' office at 224-5141. If you have any other questions or need any further information, please contact David Mallino in the AFL-CIO's Department of Legislation at 202-637-5084.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION