

21st Century Energy Workforce Development Jobs Initiative Act (H.R. 4526)

WHEREAS, the Corporation represents over 500 African American mayors and 48 million constituents across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation supports initiatives that improve the quality of life and expand economic opportunities for municipalities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation appreciates the need for initiatives to develop a qualified, diverse workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation believes that job preservation and job creation, undertaken equitably, should be high priority objectives for U.S. policymakers; and

WHEREAS, community colleges and universities around the country are developing and implementing training programs and curricula enabling more students to enter the energy workforce and benefit from the jobs, and the excellent benefits and economic stability that such jobs offer in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation believes that public-private partnerships are instrumental in ensuring that all citizens are prepared for high-paying careers in the energy industry; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey reports that African Americans and Hispanics have been consistently underrepresented in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) employment; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey indicates that in 2011, 11% of the workforce was African American, while 6% of the STEM workers were African American (up from 2% in 1970), and that in 2011, 15% of the workforce was Hispanic, while 7% of the STEM workforce was Hispanic (up from 3% in 1970); and

WHEREAS, the Corporation believes that if the right steps are taken now to position minority students and working professionals for such high-demand jobs through new initiatives in STEM education, and through workforce training targeted at minority STEM professionals, minorities will be much better positioned to fill these jobs and create a cadre of new minority STEM leaders of the future; and

WHEREAS, the 21st Century Energy Workforce Development Jobs Initiative Act of 2014 will bring into being a comprehensive program to improve the education and training of minorities and women for energy-related jobs, with a focus on increasing the number of skilled minorities and women trained to work in the energy industry.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the Corporation urges members of the U.S. Congress to support the 21st Century Energy Workforce Development Jobs Initiative Act of 2014, sponsored by Congressman Bobby Rush (IL); and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this particular resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, the Center for Workforce Energy

Development, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Director of the Minority Business Development Agency, and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.