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July 21, 2022

Mr. Brent Parton  
Acting Assistant Secretary/Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Employment and Training Administration  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20210

**RE: Letter of Support for the Randolph County Housing Authority's Grant Application**

Dear Mr. Parton,

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Randolph County Housing Authority (RCHA) for grant funding from the Department of Labor's (DOL) Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Initiative. This funding will allow the RCHA to establish a statewide program to train heavy equipment operators and prepare West Virginia workers to enter an in-demand industry.

I am especially pleased by the efforts of the RCHA to offer workforce development training to workers and give workers the tools they need to succeed in industries that are crucial to West Virginia's economy. Currently, there is only one program in West Virginia to train heavy equipment operators (HEOs), but more than 4,400 current job openings for HEOs in West Virginia alone. There is a demonstrated need for additional capacity to help train workers for these jobs. The RCHA previously received a \$750,000 grant award from this very initiative, making them well-suited to continue their efforts by establishing new training activities, this time on a statewide basis. This grant will help ensure the RCHA can train the next generation of workers who are badly needed in West Virginia.

I sincerely appreciate you noting my interest in this application and affording it a full and fair review. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact my office if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

JMIII/jb