

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 31, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

RE: CFDA Number: 17.285, Funding Opportunity Number: FOA-ETA-16-13

Dear Secretary Perez:

I am pleased to support the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards' (DWD/BAS) application for the ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grant through the U.S. Department of Labor. DWD/BAS displays a strong commitment to expanding apprenticeship opportunities across Wisconsin industries.

The Wisconsin Apprenticeship Model currently serves over 10,000 workers each year and engages over 2,500 employers statewide. While there has been notable proven success for this current model, there is still need for further expansion to meet the skilled labor needs of industry while providing career pathways to higher wages for all Wisconsin workers.

With proposed funding through the ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grant, DWD/BAS will look to address the specific need of creating more apprenticeship opportunities for minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, youth, and those transitioning from incarceration.

I am committed to seeing more Wisconsin workers increase their wages by gaining the higher level skills needed to remain competitive in the global economy. I strongly support programs that expand apprenticeship opportunities in Wisconsin and for this reason, I ask that you give full and fair consideration to DWD/BAS's application.

Please keep Jessica Sielaff in my Madison office updated on the progress of this application and contact her should you have further questions or concerns. She may be reached at 30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 700, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, by phone at 608-264-5338, or by email at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United State Senator