

October 8, 2010

To the Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

On behalf of the CEO Council for Growth, a group of key business executives committed to growing the Greater Philadelphia region, I am writing to you today to express our strong support for the Industry Partnership legislation that passed the Senate Labor Committee in June and the companion legislation that passed the full House in March. More than an interested observer, the CEO Council has been an active partner in regional workforce strategies that focus on the skill and human capital needs of both Pennsylvania and the region's key industry sectors.

Our organization recognizes the unprecedented contribution Industry Partnerships have made to Pennsylvania businesses and industries. Under IPs, workforce training is industry-driven and maintains a focus on the skills businesses need to compete in a difficult economy. More than 70 Industry Partnerships, involving 6,300 businesses, have trained over 70,000 workers.

Pennsylvania's IP strategy owes its origin to grass roots innovations within local Workforce Investment Areas that began under Governor Schweiker. The program continues to enjoy bipartisan support as evidenced by the unanimous passing of House Bill 2230 in the House of Representatives and the unanimous reporting of Senate Bill 1409 from the Senate's Labor & Industry Committee.

On behalf of the CEO Council, I strongly urge you to pass Industry Partnership legislation into law. Pennsylvania has been recognized as a national leader in this area and this legislation needs your support to ensure that we maintain this advantage and can continue to compete in the global marketplace.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Wonderling
Chairman
CEO Council for Growth