



AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM

November 7th, 2017

To: Members of the Wisconsin Assembly

From: Americans for Tax Reform

Re: Assembly Bill 508

Dear Representative,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and our supporters across Wisconsin, **I urge you to support AB 508**, legislation introduced by Rep. Rob Hutton that would remove policy roadblocks that prevent the hiring of new apprentices and the expansion of apprenticeship opportunities in Wisconsin.

American employers have millions of jobs they need to fill, but are unable to find workers with the requisite skills. The expansion of apprenticeship opportunities in the U.S., and the enactment of state and federal policies to permit such expansion, is crucial to closing the skills gap and providing job opportunities that will allow Americans to earn an income while learning the skills needed to compete and thrive in the 21st century. Removing misguided rules and regulations that stand in the way of apprenticeship expansion is the best place for state lawmakers to start, and that's exactly what AB 508 would do.

Under current law, there are some trades where multiple journeymen are required to hire and train a new apprentice. These apprenticeship ratios are arbitrarily established and vary by trade with no rhyme or reason. The current system makes no sense and prevents businesses from hiring and training needed workers. The status quo also prevents Wisconsin residents from apprenticeship opportunities that provide income and a career path while teaching valuable skills that are in demand. AB 508 would end the state's nonsensical apprenticeship ratio system that is variable by trade, and move to an across the board 1:1 journeyman-to-apprentice ratio, while allowing the hiring of even more apprentices per journeyman, should a trade deem it appropriate.

This reform represents an important first step toward creating an environment where the opportunities for well-paying jobs are plenty and where employers can find workers with the needed skillsets. As such, **I urge members of the committee to support and vote YES on AB 508**. I thank you for your public service and your leadership in providing billions of dollars in tax relief to Wisconsin taxpayers over the last six years. Enactment of AB 508 would add to the already long list of pro-growth reforms that you and your colleagues have enacted in recent years. If you have any questions or if ATR can be of assistance, don't hesitate to contact me or Patrick Gleason, ATR's director of state affairs, at pgleason@atr.org or 202-785-0266.

Sincerely,



Grover Norquist
President
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