



An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

11 Stanwix Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-1312

T: 412.281.4783  
F: 412.392.4520  
[PittsburghChamber.com](http://PittsburghChamber.com)

January 10, 2017

Honorable Members of the SWPA Pennsylvania Delegation:

On behalf of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce – an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, I write to express our support for H.R. 338, *To Promote a 21st Century Energy and Manufacturing Workforce*. We respectfully urge you to pass Congressman Rush's important bill that will have meaningful impacts on our region's energy workforce readiness.

In 2010, sensing the need to respond quickly to the robust growth of the natural gas industry, the Allegheny Conference and partners created ShaleNet. The program is an effective and efficient entry level training program featuring four high demand upstream occupations including roustabout, welder's helper, floor hand and completion technician. ShaleNET was launched in 2010 with a \$4.964M Community Based Job Training grant awarded to Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, PA by the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. By the close of the first ShaleNET grant on June 30, 2013 more than 14,000 people had been served by 20 recognized training providers in four states. The program has trained over 5,000 participants, with more than 3,400 finding employment.

ShaleNet's program and curriculum is a model that other regions can utilize as the nation's energy production continues to grow. H.R. 338 will help regions throughout the nation meet the needs of both industry and workers, which will facilitate economic growth. Furthermore, H.R. 338 directs the US Department of Energy to consider its role in preparing a diverse energy workforce and ensuring that opportunities are created in both minority communities and the greater community.

I urge you to move forward with H.R. 338 and I applaud the ongoing, bipartisan commitment to invest in our nation's energy workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Smith".

Matthew Smith

President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce