



July 28, 2025

Senator Jon Ossoff
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 317
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ossoff,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Athena Area Chamber of Commerce, we are deeply appreciative of the effort to pass the Skilled Workforce Act of 2025. We believe that, now, more than ever, a sustainable, valued and valuable workforce for today and tomorrow is desperately needed.

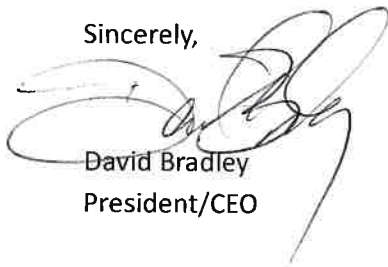
The statistics are shocking and demand our immediate attention:

- In the State of Georgia, there are only 74 available workers for every 100 open jobs
- In the Athens area there are 14,400 jobs that are open and unfilled as of April, 2025
- The Labor Participation rate for the State of Georgia in 2024 was 60.6 meaning 39.4% of our available workforce is NOT participating in employment or searching for work.

Ideally, we would be able to maximize the success of our business community. By doing so, we build a more sustainable economy for everyone. If we could fill just 4,000 of the open jobs in the Athens area we would realize an increase of \$160,00,000 annually generated through our local economy – in wages alone. Add in the increased profitability of the local business community and the positive economic impact – in the smallest county in Georgia – would be close to \$500,000,000. That is precisely why the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, through our Athens Achieves workforce development initiative, is focused on this critical issue.

The Skilled Workforce Act of 2025 will incentivize companies to collaborate with wide array of partners to address this essential need. If we seek a brighter tomorrow, it is imperative that we find innovate ways to invest. We are grateful for this effort and will urge for wide, non-partisan support in any way we are asked.

Sincerely,



David Bradley
President/CEO