

Date: August 6, 2019

# WATTS UP?



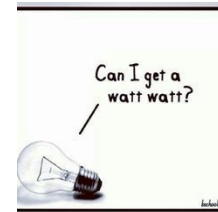
## Wisconsin Chapter, N.E.C.A. E-Newsletter

### In This Issue:

- ◆ Important Message- Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAP)

### Act Now To Protect Industry Apprenticeship Programs

(PMC/SMACCA and NECA Government Affairs)



### TO: All Members, Wisconsin Chapter NECA

The following message is provided by PMC/SMACCA, and NECA Government Affairs. Both extol the need for and value your participation by sending a message to the Department of Labor to request they continue to exempt construction apprenticeships from the **Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAP)**. The link for submitting your comments is highlighted below. **Please respond by the deadline date of August 23, 2019.**

Earlier this summer the U.S. Department of Labor released a proposed rule that threatens to destroy our industries skilled apprenticeship programs by establishing an alternative to the registered apprenticeship programs: the **industry-recognized apprenticeship programs ("IRAP")**.

**IRAP** programs represent new, undefined pathways to the expansion of apprenticeship programs where anyone can create unique apprenticeship programs and submit it to the DOL for approval. This rule initially contains an exemption for construction. It is extremely important that this exemption remain in the proposed rule until it becomes a permanent exemption.

**It is imperative that our voices be heard by the DOL regarding this proposed rule and the potentially damaging impact it could have on our industry and training programs.**

A new website has been created by building construction industry partners (MCAA, SMACNA, NECA, etc.) to provide you with an easy way to submit your comments to the Department of Labor. Click the link below, fill in the required information, and the software will generate a unique comment letter to be submitted automatically on your behalf.

**NOTE** - when completing this form, when asked to fill-in your Contractor Association, be sure to spell out the entire Association and preface your Association Name with the word "the". e.g. **"Wisconsin Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association."**

The DOL has imposed an **August 23, 2019** deadline for public comments to be registered regarding IRAPs. It is imperative that we collectively convince the DOL to support the current registered apprenticeship standards for the construction industry.

Advocates of non-organized industry and of relaxed or unenforced training standards are working hard to pass these rule changes and dismantle the DOL registered programs as we know them. We need our partners to overwhelm these efforts.

Because the DOL has vowed to treat all form letters they receive as only one letter the link we've provided for you to submit your comments will simply and quickly allow you to indicate your concerns about IRAPs by filling out a few questions about who you are and then selecting an area of interest to **comment** on. You should select any of those listed areas of interest as they are all important.

The system then generates a unique comment letter on your behalf and **submits** it automatically to the DOL. It's that simple.

**Your feedback makes a difference .... please submit your comments today!**

<http://www.protectconstructiontraining.org/>

**National Electrical Contractors Association**  
**"Empowering Lives and Communities"**

