

U.S. Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210



March 5, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Labor (Department) has received requests, via the www.regulations.gov docket, to extend the comment period associated with the recently published Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) titled *National Apprenticeship System Enhancements*, 89 FR 3118 (January 17, 2024). The NPRM was published in the *Federal Register* on January 17, 2024, and invited the public to submit comments by March 18, 2024.

The Department believes the 60-day comment period is a reasonable and adequate amount of time to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on this NPRM and has therefore decided not to extend the comment period. As mentioned in the NPRM (89 FR 3123), the Department has been continuously engaged with apprenticeship stakeholders to pursue improvements and growth throughout the National Apprenticeship System. The Department has sought advice, recommendations, and guidance from a number of external sources, research, and stakeholder inputs in the development of this proposal, including:

- The 2022 Interim recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship and its 2023 Biennial Report;
- Over 20 Virtual Listening Sessions in 2021 on ways to modernize apprenticeship programs;
- A National Online Dialogue in 2022, including various partners and stakeholders, to describe what they believed to be the optimal implementation of the registered apprenticeship model; and
- Virtual Listening Sessions in 2023, where partners and stakeholders were given the opportunity to share perspectives on the current state of the National Apprenticeship System and to share policy recommendation for ways to strengthen and modernize the system.

In addition to these inputs that informed the development of the NPRM, the Department takes seriously its obligation to consider any “written data, views, or arguments” submitted by commenters and looks forward to reviewing all feedback received on the NPRM before the close of the comment period. See 5 U.S.C. 553(c). The Department encourages all interested parties to submit comments electronically on www.regulations.gov (RIN 1205-AC13) by 11:59 pm ET on March 18, 2024.

We have added this letter to the rulemaking record as a related document, which can be accessed through www.regulations.gov, Docket ID: ETA-2023-0004.

Thank you for your interest in this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Parton", with a stylized, flowing script.

Brent Parton
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary