

**Shawn McBurney, Co-Chair**  
American Hotel &  
Lodging Association

May 5, 2010

**Laurie Flanagan, Co-Chair**  
American Nursery &  
Landscape Association  
Professional Landcare  
Network

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Chair, Senate Immigration, Refugees and  
Border Security Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**Executive Committee:**

American Horse Council

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

American Moving & Storage  
Association

American Rental Association

Dear Leader Reid, Chairman Schumer and Senator Menendez:

Asian American Hotel  
Owners Association

Associated Builders and  
Contractors

On behalf of seasonal employers from the lodging, landscaping, seafood, restaurant, tourism, food processing and other industries, we appreciate your recent commitment to move comprehensive immigration reform this year. As the immigration debate moves forward, we encourage you and your colleagues to be mindful of the needs of seasonal employers and their contribution to the American economy. Please include reasonable H-2B cap relief in the immigration package that Congress debates and avoid imposing additional costly and complicated new requirements on small, seasonal businesses.

Associated General  
Contractors of America

Essential Worker  
Immigration Coalition

Federation of Employers  
and  
Workers of America

Golf Course  
Superintendents Association  
of America

Interlocking Concrete  
Pavement Institute

International Association of  
Amusement Parks and  
Attractions

The H-2B program has historically allowed seasonal businesses to supplement and support their full-time American workforce with seasonal temporary workers during their peak seasons. Only after employers have engaged in extensive efforts to recruit American workers do they turn to the H-2B program, which is an expensive and time-consuming process.

International Association of  
Fairs and Expositions

The H-2B program contains a cap, which especially in a strong economy, is far below the market demand for legal seasonal labor. Relief for this program was overwhelmingly approved twice by Congress. Unfortunately, that relief has not been renewed and businesses, American and foreign workers and their families have suffered as a result. Because of the temporary nature of these jobs, the sometimes strenuous manual labor associated with them, and geographic locations of these seasonal jobs, an H-2B returning worker exemption is needed even in times of high unemployment and is essential during times of economic growth.

International Franchise  
Association

National Association of  
Realtors

Rather than creating new costly and complex procedures for employers who cannot find seasonal workers, we encourage the Departments of Labor and Homeland Security to strictly enforce existing law and prosecute any H-2B violators to the fullest extent of the law. It is also important to note that H-2B employers already pay wages that are determined by the Department of Labor. Substantial increasing wage rates would serve to make some goods and commodities, such as seafood, too expensive in relation to overseas competitors. In other cases, substantially increasing the cost of services such as landscape maintenance could cause customers to forgo those services. In both cases, American workers and the local economy will suffer.

National Club Association

National Fisheries Institute

National Restaurant  
Association

National Roofing  
Contractors Association

National Ski Areas  
Association

National Thoroughbred  
Racing Association

Outdoor Amusement  
Business Association

Tree Care Industry  
Association

U.S. Apple Association

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Seasonal businesses need permanent access to a reliable and predictable labor source. Congressional action is essential not only for the vitality of small seasonal businesses and their American workforce, but also for growers, vehicle and equipment manufacturers, and other suppliers whose prosperity is closely linked to the economic health of seasonal industries. Continued access to temporary seasonal workers is especially important in allowing businesses to recover and grow as the economy begins to improve. The H-2B program is a key to survival for small businesses nationwide. We strongly encourage you to renew the H-2B returning worker program and to avoid the imposition of new requirements that will make the program too costly and complicated for the small businesses and their American workers whose livelihood depends on seasonal workers.

Thank you for your consideration. As the immigration debate advances, we look forward to working with you to develop policies that will allow small and seasonal businesses access to needed temporary workers.

Sincerely,

H-2B Workforce Coalition