The H-2B Program

Benefits Seasonal Small Businesses & Their American Workers

The H-2B program is essential for small & seasonal businesses that can't fill seasonal jobs with American workers, despite extensive recruitment efforts. Seasonal industries that use the H-2B program include hospitality and amusement parks, forestry, landscaping, circuses, carnivals, food concessionaires, and more.

This program is important for American workers whose yearround positions are reliant upon seasonal laborers during peak seasons. For the H-2B workers, the program provides well-paying, seasonal jobs that allow them to provide for their families, while maintaining their homes in their native countries.

The program limits the availability of these visas to only 66,000 per year for the entire U.S. This number is inadequate to meet the seasonal needs of small businesses. Without relief, many seasonal businesses will be unable to fulfill contracts and will be forced to scale back on equipment & supply purchases, layoff of American workers, and in some cases shut down their entire operation.

Please pass legislation to re-instate the H-2B returning worker exemption that expired on October 1st, 2016, as part of the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill and please support legislation that includes the returning worker exemption and legislation that ensures a usable, stable program which small businesses can rely on to grow.
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS NEEDED


S. 792, Save our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act of 2017 (Senator Tillis, R-NC)
• Co-sponsors: King (I-ME), Thune (R-SD), Collins (R-ME), Rounds (R-SD), Cornyn (R-TX), Murkowski (R-AK), Blunt (R-MO), Warner (D-VA), Flake (R-AZ), Cassidy (R-LA), and Graham (R-SC)
• This bipartisan legislation would streamline the program to eliminate ambiguities and establish clear parameters for employers hiring H-2B workers, require increased coordination between federal agencies, and bring transparency to the program operations for greater efficiency while ensuring American workers are not displaced.
• Provides H-2B cap relief by exempting well vetted H-2B workers who worked in the program of one the previous three years.
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• Co-sponsors: Chaffetz (R-UT), Harris (R-MD), Yoder (R-KS), Gibbs (R-OH), Long (R-MO), Goodlatte (R-VA), Meehan (R-PA), Stewart (R-UT) and Thompson (R-PA)
• Provides expedited processing of H-2B applications so that U.S. employers have access to workers during their peak work seasons. Department of Homeland Security is to run the H-2B program and ensure employer compliance with the program’s obligations.
• Would provide H-2B cap relief by exempting well vetted H-2B workers who worked in the program of one the previous three years.
• Provides H-2B cap relief by exempting well vetted H-2B workers who worked in the program during the previous fiscal year.
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