

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 30, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Secretary Nielsen and Secretary Acosta:

Now that the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year (FY) 2018 has been signed into law, we urge you to take decisive action without delay to ensure small and seasonal businesses in our states can get the workers necessary for a successful season. Due to the time-sensitive nature of seasonal businesses, we also urge you to take immediate steps to re-open the petition process and adjudicate any pending labor certifications that demonstrate the requirements set forth in this legislation. We believe your Departments can take these actions, using the authority provided under this law, without the need for additional rulemaking.

Under Division M, Extensions, Title II, Section 205 of the FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L.115-141), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, has the authority to approve petitions for admission under the H-2B Nonimmigrant Temporary Worker program up to the new statutory level set in the bill for the current fiscal year.

Small and seasonal businesses help our local communities thrive. In fact, small businesses across the country often rely on seasonal H-2B workers to help them operate during their peak seasons throughout the year. As you know, the statutory allocation for H-2B visas for the current fiscal year was reached on February 27, 2018. As a result, many small businesses are left unable to get the workers they need, leading to potential reductions in operating hours or closures. Under the authority provided by Congress, the Department of Homeland Security can immediately help businesses hire the workers they need and help local economies as they head into their peak seasons.

We encourage you to make efforts to allow for efficient processing of additional H-2B visa applications and request that you inform us as soon as possible as to the process you will use to issue additional H-2B visas and the number of additional H-2B visas you intend to issue. This will not only help to alleviate concerns among employers, but it will also reduce the inevitable time-consuming inquiries to your agencies. By taking the necessary steps now, your agencies can streamline the process and help employers get their employees sooner.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We thank you for your consideration of this request and urge that you act as soon as possible.

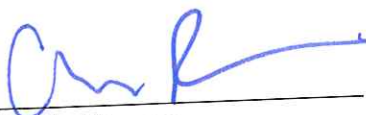
Sincerely,



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



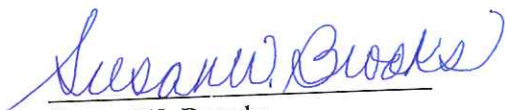
Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop  
Member of Congress



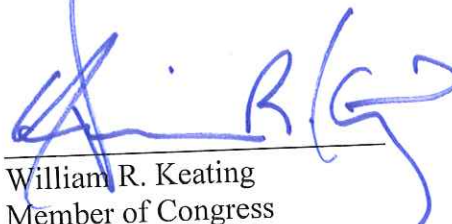
Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress



Ken Buck  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



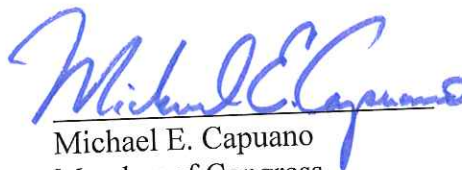
Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
Member of Congress



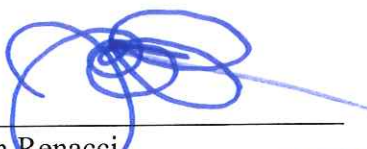
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



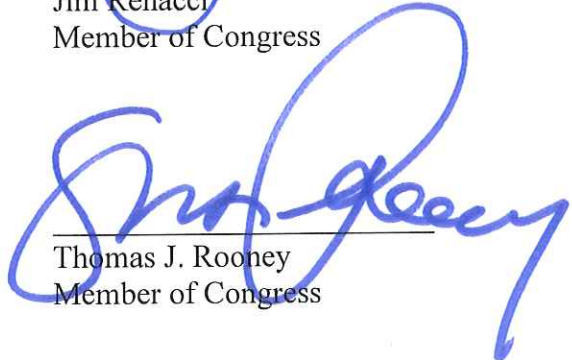
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Jim Renacci  
Member of Congress



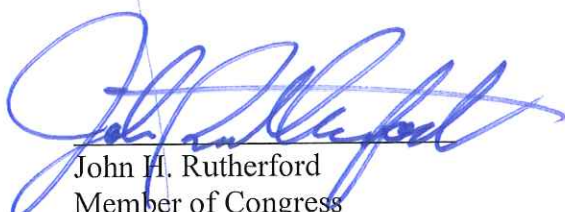
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Tom Rice  
Member of Congress



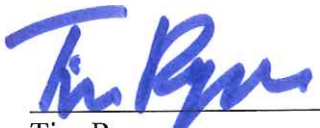
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Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress




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John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress




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Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress




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Mark Sanford  
Member of Congress



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Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



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Carol Shea-Porter  
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John Shimkus  
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Bill Shuster  
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Chris Stewart  
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Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



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Scott Tipton  
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Dave Trott  
Member of Congress





Mia Love  
Member of Congress



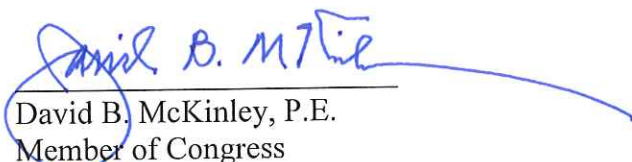
Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress



Tom MacArthur  
Member of Congress



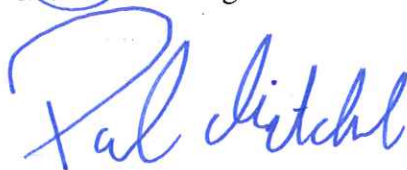
Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
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Patrick Meehan  
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Paul Mitchell  
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John Moolenaar  
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Markwayne Mullin  
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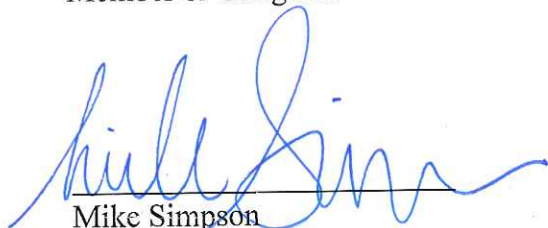
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



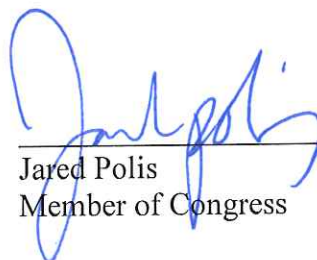
Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress



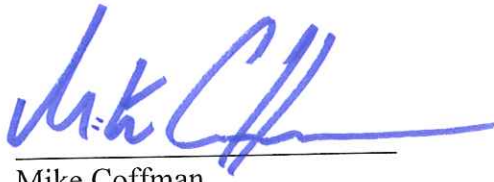
Stevan Pearce  
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Mike Simpson  
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Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



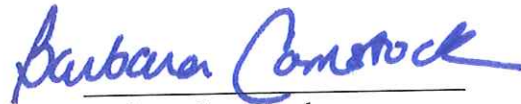
Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



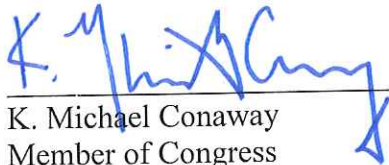
Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



Chris Collins  
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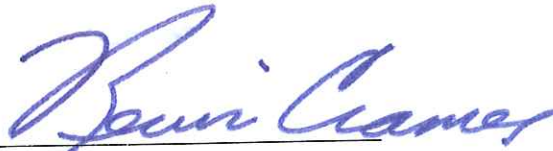
Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



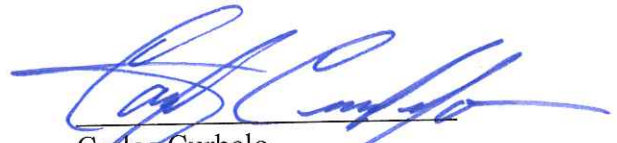
K. Michael Conaway  
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Ryan A. Costello  
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Kevin Cramer  
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Carlos Curbelo  
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Diana DeGette  
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Mike Doyle  
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Blake Farenthold  
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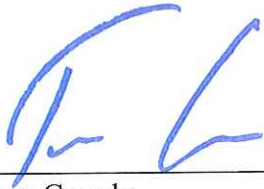
Ed Perlmutter  
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Thomas A. Garrett, Jr.  
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Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Trey Gowdy  
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



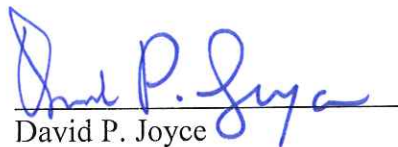
Bill Huizenga  
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Bill Johnson  
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Filemon Vela  
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David P. Joyce  
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Adam Kinzinger  
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Ann McLane Kuster  
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Doug Lamborn  
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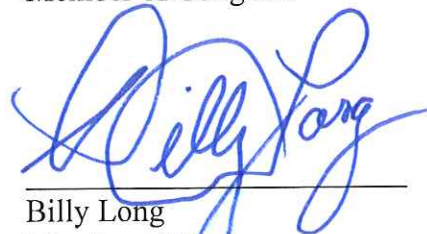
Leonard Lance  
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James R. Langevin  
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Robert Latta  
Member of Congress




Billy Long  
Member of Congress





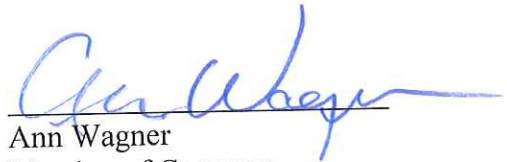
Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



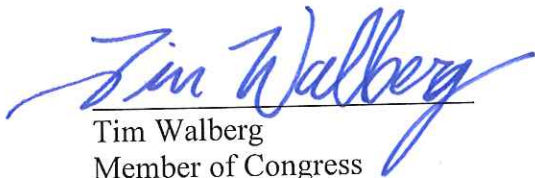
David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



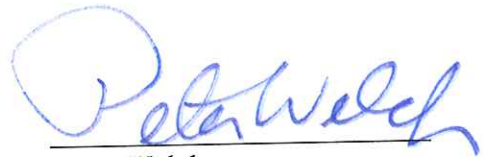
Tom Marino  
Member of Congress



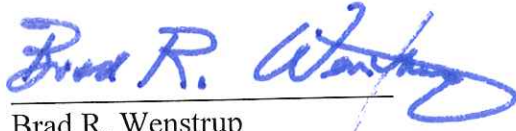
Ann Wagner  
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Tim Walberg  
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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup  
Member of Congress



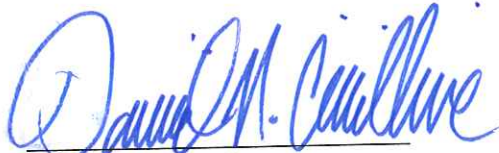
Robert Wittman  
Member of Congress



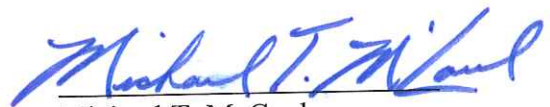
Kevin Yoder  
Member of Congress



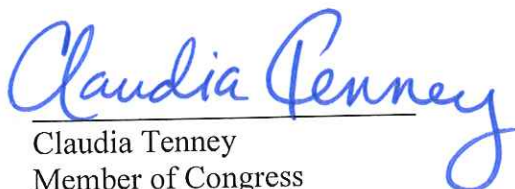
Lee Zeldin  
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David N. Cicilline  
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Michael T. McCaul  
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Claudia Tenney  
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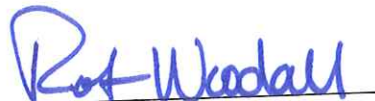
Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
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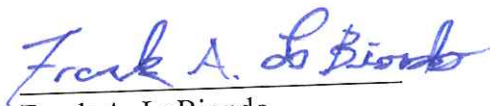
Steve Knight  
Member of Congress



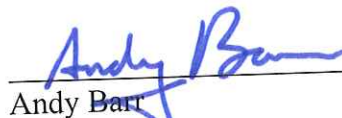
Rob Woodall  
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Mike Johnson  
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Frank A. LoBiondo  
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Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
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