

Brian Crawford, Co-Chair
American Hotel &
Lodging Association

Laurie Flanagan, Co-Chair
AmericanHort
National Association of Landscape
Professionals

Gregg Hartley, Co-Chair
Outdoor Amusement Business
Association

Executive Committee:

American Horse Council
American Moving & Storage Association
American Rental Association
American Sugar Cane League
American Trucking Associations
Asian American Hotel Owners Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated General Contractors
Brick Industry Association
Building Stone Institute
Crawfish Processors Alliance
Essential Worker Immigration Coalition
Federation of Employers and Workers of America
Forest Resources Association
Golf Course Superintendents Association of
America
Gulf Seafood Institute
ImmigrationWorks USA
Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute
International Association of Amusement Parks and
Attractions
International Association of Fairs and Expositions
International Franchise Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Realtors
National Association of State Departments of
Agriculture
National Club Association
National Council of Agricultural Employers
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Federation of Independent Business
National Fisheries Institute
National Hispanic Landscape Alliance
National Restaurant Association
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Ski Areas Association
National Thoroughbred Racing Association
Outdoor Amusement Business Association
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Small & Seasonal Business Legal Center
Snow and Ice Management Association
Society of American Florists
Tree Care Industry Association
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
The Utility Sprayer Alliance

March 22, 2018

Statement of the H-2B Workforce Coalition On House Passage FY 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill

The H-2B Workforce Coalition will continue to seek a permanent solution to the seasonal labor crisis small businesses across the country face as national unemployment approaches 4 percent. We are grateful that fiscal year 2018 omnibus spending bill includes a path forward to help save the spring and summer for many seasonal businesses, their full-time domestic workforce and the communities they serve. We urge Congress to promptly pass the measure and hope that upon President Trump's signature, the Department of Homeland Security will move swiftly to make these much-needed additional visas available. Without immediate action, more than 67 percent of seasonal positions will go unfulfilled, forcing businesses to turn away customers, lay off American workers whose jobs are supported by H-2B workers, and in some cases shut down their operations entirely.

The H-2B program relies on well-vetted, legal guest workers who come to the U.S. for seasonal employment and then return to their home country. These workers are not immigrants. They allow U.S. businesses to operate at a greater capacity, retain their full-time workers and contribute to their local economies. Seasonal workers help support many upstream and downstream jobs. Every H-2B worker is estimated to create and sustain 4.64 American jobs.

The H-2B program is essential to employers who cannot find local temporary workers to fill jobs in seafood processing, horse training, hospitality, amusement parks, forestry, landscaping, circuses, carnivals, food concessionaires, swimming pool maintenance, golf courses, stone quarries and other seasonal industries. These seasonal businesses need H-2B workers to supplement their American workforce.