

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

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Minority Whip  
United States House of Representatives  
H-148, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders:

On behalf of the small and seasonal businesses in our districts, we urge you to include an H-2B returning worker exemption anomaly in the continuing resolution. The returning worker exemption was in effect for much of FY16, but expired on September 30, 2016. This year, the House Appropriations Committee again included the returning worker exemption provision as part of the FY17 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill.

The statutory allocation of 33,000 visas for the first half of FY17 could be reached by the end of the year. If the returning worker exemption is not addressed in the continuing resolution, employers in our states may be without the critical seasonal workforce they need to operate. These businesses may not be able to fulfill contracts, could be forced to turn away customers, and may, in turn, lay off American workers whose jobs are supported by H-2B workers. In some cases these businesses may even shut down their operations entirely as a result of their inability to hire H-2B employees.

The H-2B program is essential to employers who cannot find local workers to fill temporary jobs in seafood processing, horse training, hospitality and amusement parks, forestry, landscaping, circuses, carnivals, food concessionaires, swimming pool maintenance, golf courses, stone quarries, sugar refineries and other seasonal industries. Most of these seasonal businesses need H-2B workers to supplement their American workforce during the spring and summer and will be applying for their workers during the time the continuing resolution is in effect. Because the program's annual 66,000 cap (33,000 for each half of the fiscal year) is not adequate to meet the demands of a growing economy, many seasonal businesses will be shut out of the program if the returning worker exemption is not in place between December and March. In FY 2015, the first-half cap was met on January 26, 2015 and in FY 2016, the first half cap was met on March 15, 2016.

The H-2B program relies on returning workers who come to the U.S. for seasonal employment and then go home. These workers are not immigrants. They provide an opportunity for U.S. businesses to operate at a greater capacity, retain their full-time workers

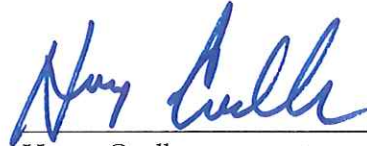
and contribute to their local economies. Seasonal workers help support many upstream and downstream jobs. Every H-2B worker is estimated to create and sustain 4.64 American jobs.

Relief for seasonal businesses that use the H-2B program is needed urgently and cannot wait until the end of March. Please include a returning worker anomaly in the continuing resolution so that small and seasonal businesses in our states can continue to operate, provide American jobs and contribute to our economy.

Sincerely,



Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



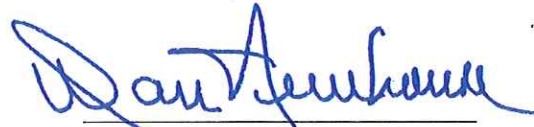
Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress



Bill Keating  
Member of Congress



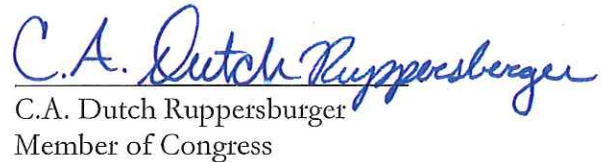
Billy Long  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder  
Member of Congress

Dan Benishkeh

Dan Benishkeh, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber

Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

Mike Bishop

Mike Bishop  
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance

Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

Garret Graves

Garret Graves  
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Scott Perry

Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

Robert Wittman

Robert Wittman  
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga

Bill Huizenga  
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Tim Walberg

Tim Walberg  
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Scott Tipton

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John Moolenaar

John Moolenaar  
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David Rouzer

David Rouzer  
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Chellie Pingree

Chellie Pingree  
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Thomas Massie

Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson

Glenn Thompson  
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins

Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger

Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress

Tom MacArthur

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Ralph Abraham

Ralph Abraham  
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Mike Coffman

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Chris Collins

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Bob Gibbs

Bob Gibbs  
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Ann M. Kuster

Ann M. Kuster  
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Jared Polis

Jared Polis  
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Fred Upton

Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan

Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress