

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

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

**Executive Committee:**

American Horse Council

American Immigration  
Lawyers Association

American Moving & Storage  
Association

American Rental Association

American Trucking  
Associations

Asian American Hotel  
Owners Association

Associated Builders and  
Contractors

Associated General  
Contractors of America

Essential Worker  
Immigration Coalition

Federation of Employers  
and  
Workers of America

Interlocking Concrete  
Pavement Institute

International Association of  
Amusement Parks and  
Attractions

International Franchise  
Association

National Association of  
Realtors

National Club Association

National Federation of  
Independent Business

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

On behalf of seasonal employers from the lodging, landscaping, seafood, restaurant, tourism, construction and other industries, we are encouraged by Senators Schumer and Graham crafting a reform framework that recognizes the critical need for temporary seasonal workers to maintain a strong economy. We are also pleased that President Obama has endorsed the need for temporary seasonal workers. As the senators and president correctly recognized, temporary workers are a vital component of economic growth and the retention of American jobs in industries nationwide.

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 workers do they turn to the H-2B program, which is an expensive and time-consuming process.

The H-2B program contains a cap, which especially in a strong economy, is far below the typical 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, full-time American and seasonal workers and their families have suffered as a result. As noted in the *Baltimore Sun* article on February 6, 2009: "If Congress does not move quickly to make more [H-2Bs] available, other [crab] processors say they won't open this spring. And the loss of a year's income, several say, means that they probably would shut their businesses for good."

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. A viable seasonal worker program such as the H-2B program is a key to survival for small businesses nationwide.

We look forward to working with Senators Schumer and Graham and President Obama in developing policies that will allow small and seasonal businesses access to needed temporary workers.