



May 5, 2008

The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear George,

On behalf of the directors and members of the California Ski Industry Association I would like to urge your support of the H2B visa program and the extension of the returning worker exemption.

California's winter sports resorts have, since the early 1990s, relied on H2B visa holders as ski and snowboard instructors. Each year the need grows as the pool of domestic instructors shrinks and the demand for lessons grows. Currently the demand for H2Bs is approximately 400 and climbing. This past season with Congress' failure to extend the returning worker visa provision many resorts were unable to offer lessons, particularly in the children's ski schools.

The H2B visa program in the winter sports industry has worked as Congress intended. We no longer enjoy a steady supply of certified American instructors. All qualified domestic applicants are hired. Certified foreign instructors are brought in at the prevailing wages and provided competitive benefits. When the season ends they return home. The program has been a win/win/win/win for the instructors, the resorts, the mountain communities and the skiing/snowboarding public.

As a long-time Tahoe skier you know the benefits of winter sports to Californians. The continuance of the H2B visa program and the exemption for returning instructors will allow us to continue providing world class skiing and snowboarding in the Sierra Nevada.

If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call.

Yours truly

Bob Roberts
Executive Director

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