

# H-2B WORKFORCE COALITION

PROMOTING A STABLE AND RELIABLE SEASONAL WORKFORCE

**Michael R. Shutley, Co-Chair**  
National Restaurant  
Association

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

**Executive Committee:**

American Horse Council

American Immigration  
Lawyers Association

American Nursery &  
Landscape 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 Franchise  
Association

National Club Association

National Federation of  
Independent Business

National Roofing Contractors  
Association

National Ski Areas Association

National Thoroughbred Racing  
Association

Professional Landcare  
Network

Tree Care Industry  
Association

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

May 13, 2008

Chairman John Conyers and Ranking Member Lamar Smith  
Committee on the Judiciary  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers and Ranking Member Smith:

On behalf of seasonal employers from the lodging, restaurant, landscaping, tourism, construction and other industries, we are encouraged to see H.R. 4080, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a separate nonimmigrant classification for fashion models, move through the committee process this week.

While previously under the impression that a piece-by-piece approach to fixing various guest worker programs would be a non-starter this year, we are happy to see movement in the Judiciary committee in this important issue area. In the same spirit of cooperation, we strongly encourage the full committee to mark-up and pass H.R. 1843, "The Save Our Seasonal and Small Business Act of 2007."

As the committee has correctly recognized, temporary work visas, whether they be for the fashion industry or America's small business owners, are a vital tool for economic growth in industries nationwide. H.R. 1843 will renew a critical returning worker exemption that small business owners often rely to fill seasonal jobs when sufficient U.S. workers are not available. The program has historically been very successful by allowing these businesses to supplement and support their full time American workforce with seasonal temporary workers and remain competitive during peak seasons. As you know, only after employers have engaged in extensive efforts to recruit American workers do they turn to the H-2B program, which can often be a more expensive and time-consuming process.

The H-2B visa and the returning worker provision have proven to be much more than a simple temporary worker visa program. It has become an engine for economic growth for small businesses nationwide. Without access to this vital program, many of our nation's small and seasonal employers will have no choice but to shutter their businesses. We urge you to take steps now that will provide a lasting solution to our nation's seasonal employment needs.

Sincerely,

The H-2B Workforce Coalition

cc: Judiciary Committee Members