



## **Governor joins petition urging H-2B extension**

**April 29, 2008**

Gov. Deval Patrick was among 17 governors to sign a letter urging Congress to pass a one-year extension of a provision that would allow thousands of foreign workers to return to the country on H-2B visas this summer.

"Each day Congress fails to act adds to the tremendous uncertainty faced by our seasonal businesses," the letter reads, in part.

The letter, addressed to Republican and Democratic leaders of both the House and Senate, was signed by governors of states from all regions of the country.

Every year, 5,000 to 6,000 seasonal workers come to the Cape and Islands on H-2B visas. The national cap of 33,000 visas for the second half of the year was reached on Jan. 2, 2008, before most Cape area employers had filed the necessary applications.

Though action from Congress could help alleviate the pending worker shortage on the Cape, such a measure is unlikely to pass, said William Zammer, owner of Cape Cod Restaurants.

— sarah shemkus