



Ski resorts need seasonal workers

October 26, 2007

Our local economy needs your support. After nearly a month of battling in Congress, the local resort and hospitality industry is still hurting from a lack of skilled foreign employees in the workplace.

Incline's own Diamond Peak, in particular, is short two critical employees for the upcoming ski season because Congress has been slow to act in passing an extension for H-2B visa workers. Without these employees, the local ski industry is having a tough time assembling a full staff before the holiday season.

The seasonal staff brought on by these visas are important to the resort industry. They aren't just ticket takers or parking lot shovelers, they are the ski coaches, instructors and heavy-machinery mechanics resorts cannot function without. By their definition, H-2B visas are available only to skilled seasonal workers; these are not positions that can just be filled by a Joe off the street.

You can contact Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign and U.S. Rep. Dean Heller to ask them for their support on the H-2B extension. Congress needs to push this measure through both houses immediately, before it's too late and the rush to the hills is on. Any delay could cause headaches for local hills and a decrease in the services provided.