



President Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Vice President Vance  
The White House  
Office of the Vice President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump and Vice President Vance:

The H-2B Workforce Coalition offers its congratulations on the election and looks forward to working with your administration on issues critical to the economic viability of small and seasonal businesses. The H-2B Workforce Coalition is comprised of thousands of employers and their representatives from the lodging, landscaping, seafood, restaurant, tourism, equine, forestry, amusement parks, golf courses and other industries. Our members are businesses that rely on the H-2B visa program to supplement their U.S. workforce during seasonal surge and peak business needs.


Our members of all sizes and in varied industries go through exhaustive measures to find American workers to fill their seasonal workforce, including posting the position with their State Workforce Agency (SWA), coordinating with the SWA to locate every available local applicant, and posting the job opportunity on a national job registry. Only after these recruitment measures fail to identify enough willing and qualified US workers is an employer certified by the US government and authorized to use temporary foreign workers to meet their temporary or seasonal labor needs. In some scenarios, continued efforts to hire American workers even include offering retention bonuses, paying staffing agencies to recruit domestic workers from other areas of the country, and partnering with local correctional facilities to hire workers through work release programs. H-2B workers are well-vetted by the U.S government and return to their home countries at the conclusion of their temporary work.

The certification process and admission of H-2B workers is highly regulated with federally mandated wage levels at mean wage as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the area of intended employment and required benefits, including transportation, to ensure that all available US workers are hired. The H-2B Workforce Coalition members support and comply with the program's goal of ensuring that American workers are not adversely affected and that every tool is used to find American workers to fill these jobs. However, the seasonal nature of these employment opportunities and the location of these businesses, particularly in geographical areas with small residential populations, simply do not allow many American companies to attract sufficient numbers of local workers to fill their labor needs. The H-2B supplemental labor

program is therefore essential to the economic viability of these seasonal businesses and to the continued employment of their permanent, full time U.S. employees. It has been established that a single H-2B temporary worker supports about four permanent U.S. jobs.

The economic viability of seasonal businesses is critical to the U.S. economy. Unfortunately, the program's 66,000 annual cap was first enacted in 1992 and has not been revised or updated since. The need for supplemental workers is evidenced by the U.S. government's certification of workers needed, after federally mandated recruitment efforts, in numbers well above the cap. For this reason, the Coalition has long advocated for and supported passage of legislation to reform the H-2B program to address the outdated cap and other overly bureaucratic program requirements. In the absence of immigration and border security reform legislation and in recognition of the federally certified need for temporary workers, Congress, in annual appropriations bills, has provided the administration with authority to increase the number of workers admitted to the U.S. based upon a showing of adverse economic impact to businesses. These supplemental visas, which were first issued in your earlier Administration, have provided critical relief to our members. Should that authority be extended beyond the current fiscal year, the Coalition urges your administration to work with our members to ensure that critical temporary labor needs are met. We also look forward to working with your administration to permanently address the H-2B cap in a way that recognizes the bona fide need for temporary workers in a way that will allow small and seasonal businesses to grow, hire additional U.S. workers and continue to serve their local communities.

Sincerely,

  
Ashley McNeil  
Chair

  
Jon Baselice  
Vice Chair

Cc: Secretary of State Marco Rubio  
Secretary of Homeland Secretary Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Labor Nominee Lori Chavez-DeRemer