

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2017

The Honorable John Kelly  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane SW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

We write on behalf of the many small and seasonal businesses in our districts that rely on the H-2B program each year. As you are already aware, many of our local employers depend on the non-immigrant workers who enter the U.S. on short-term visas under the H-2B program to supplement their American workforce to accommodate the massive flows of visitors during the busy summer months. Without this program, local businesses and both the regional and national economy suffer because there simply are not enough American workers available during these peak and shoulder-season months.

With the H-2B visa cap in place as it applies to returning workers, it is critical to our constituents and communities that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) accurately accounts for all visas issued as well as visa applications withdrawn, denied, and revoked. If there are unused visas, it is imperative that they are made available to employers as soon as possible, given the time-sensitive nature of when employers must be able to fully staff their businesses in order to remain competitive and viable.

A number of our Senate colleagues recently wrote a letter to you requesting that USCIS conduct an audit of the number of unused visas from the first half of the fiscal year. As Members of the House of Representatives, representing the many small and seasonal employers who have serious concerns about whether they will be able to fully staff their businesses this summer, we join in requesting an immediate audit of the number of unused visas. We also respectfully request information regarding how USCIS intends to ensure that the full 33,000 visas are made available for each half of the fiscal year and how USCIS will ensure timely processing of visas after the cap is deemed to have been reached in the event that additional visas are made available.

We thank you for your attention to this issue and for your work on behalf of the many employers and communities in our districts that rely on this program each year. We look forward to your timely response and hope to continue working together to resolve this recurring issue.

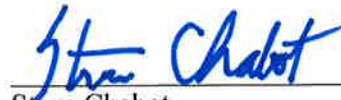
Sincerely,

  
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

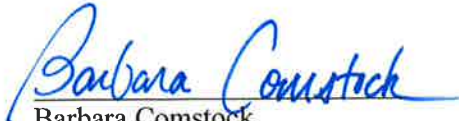
  
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Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



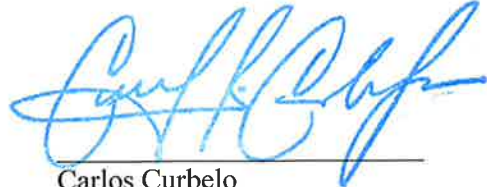
Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Barbara Comstock  
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Carlos Curbelo  
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John J. Faso  
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Chellie Pingree  
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Kevin Yoder  
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Ted S. Yoho, DVM  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Raúl R. Labrador  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



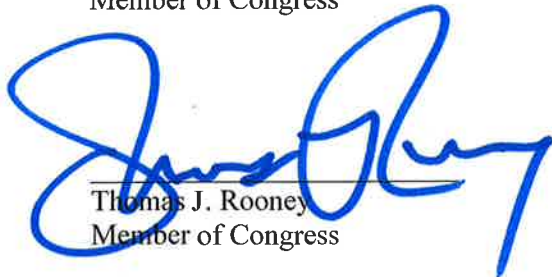
Tom Rice  
Member of Congress



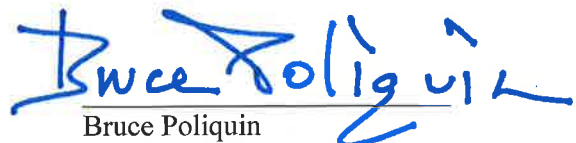
Bruce Westerman  
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Rob Woodall  
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Thomas J. Rooney  
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Bruce Poliquin  
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Chris Collins  
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Mark Sanford  
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David G. Valadao  
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Bob Gibbs  
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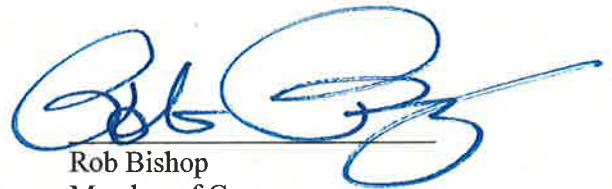
Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress



Andy Barr  
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Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop  
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