

August 15, 2007

RE: OHIO LANDSCAPERS IN JEOPARDY OF LOSING OUR H-2B WORKERS

Dear

I know that you may be thinking that you've heard this story before: *Oh, you're going to lose your workers, start calling your legislators.* I thought the same thing. It seemed like we have been told this before, over and over again and then every year we get our workers. **THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT!**

The mood in Washington has dramatically changed, as representatives and senators have had their feet to their fire over the hotly debated immigration issues. With the upcoming election in 2008 and the 'lame duck' status of President Bush, congress doesn't want to touch this issue with a 10-foot pole! Even though H-2B is not an immigration issue, it is viewed that way in Washington.

Here are the facts:

- The returning workers exemption has expired. This means that there will only be 66,000 visas available for the entire country. Because of our geographic location and date of need, **THE VISAS WILL BE GONE BEFORE OHIO GETS ANY.**
- There is currently a bill in the Senate (S.988) and a bill in the House (H.R. 1843) that must be passed in order for us to continue to use the H-2B program. This bill will extend the Returning Working Exemption. This means that any H-2B worker that has had a visa before, doesn't count toward the 66,000 cap.

Please feel free to call me with any questions you have. I was in Washington in July working on this issue. I have never been involved before, but I know that the time is now. I urge you to join me and your fellow colleagues and support our industry.

Best Regards,

Wayne Impullitti
President

August 16, 2007

Contact
Company Name
Address
City

Dear H-2B Employer,

I am writing to you to inform you that **Senate Bill 988 and House Bill 1843 MUST BE PASSED** in order for H-2B employers to continue to utilize the H-2B program.

For the past 3 years our company has been actively involved along with a handful of other H-2B companies in Ohio to have similar bills passed with success. However, the climate in Washington has changed and we can no longer succeed without your help.

These are the **SIMPLE FACTS**:

FACT: The H-2B program reverted back to prior bill with 66,000 cap. **All visas will be used by other states before your date of need will be filled.**

FACT: There will be **no returning worker exemption** unless new legislation is passed. H2B employees that have worked for your company in the past will be counted in the 66,000 cap.

FACT: Companies who depended heavily on "green card" workers will be dramatically affected by new initiatives to enforce laws through the Social Security Mis-Match Program. Those companies will be forced to draw from the same limited labor pool that we share, creating an even larger crisis.

We have been working with "Save our Small Business", the Ohio Landscape Association (OLA), and PLANET developing resources for all contractors to use for getting legislation passed. **RESOURCES ARE USELESS IF WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR HELP.**

Please contact Sandy Munley of OLA to see how you can help pass this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

John D. Wheeler, CCLP
Wheeler Landscaping, Inc