



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2007

Current Cosponsors (29): Baldwin, Bartlett, Rob Bishop, Timothy Bishop, Bonner, Boustany, Capuano, Jo Ann Davis, DeGette, Delahunt, DeLauro, Flake, Gerlach, Gilchrest, McHugh, Kind, John Larson, LaTourette, Dennis Moore, Musgrave, Olver, Ortiz, Pallone, Platts, Pomeroy, Ruppertsberger, Paul Ryan, Tiahrt, Joe Wilson

Dear Colleague,

We write to ask you to become a co-sponsor of the Save our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act of 2007, HR 1843. In 2006, Congress included a one-year extension to the Save our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act of 2005 (SOSSBA) in the Department of Defense Authorization bill. This extension created a temporary fix to the H-2B Visa shortage by exempting returning seasonal workers from the H-2B visa cap and by providing a fairer allocation of visas.

The 2005 law was designed to be a short-term solution to the H-2B visa shortage, effective for two years. The bill did not raise the cap - it simply exempted returning workers who have played by the rules from counting against the 66,000 visa cap. Employees who have worked here before and returned to their home country were given the opportunity to return to the U.S. to work another season under the H-2B Visa program. This exemption has provided the needed relief to small and seasonal businesses to save their businesses and keep their year-round American workers employed. However, this much needed relief is set to expire on September 30, 2007.

Small and seasonal businesses around the country have demonstrated that the H-2B program is a huge success in protecting and promoting America's economy, jobs and national security. Without an extension, these businesses will face labor shortages this year. Our bill will provide a permanent fix to the H-2B program, allowing small and seasonal businesses to fill their short-term labor needs and keep full-time Americans working.

This bill will provide the necessary relief to seafood processors, landscapers, stone quarriers, resorts, pool companies, carnivals, timber companies and other small and seasonal businesses all across the nation who rely on the H-2B Visa program. We urge you to join our efforts by becoming a co-sponsor of this important legislation.

If you need additional information or would like to be a co-sponsor, please contact us directly. You can talk to Josephine Eckert in Congressman Stupak's office at 225-4735, Parish Braden in Congressman Gilchrest's office at 225-5311, or Kristen Glenn in Congresswoman Musgrave's office at 225-4676.

Sincerely,

BART STUPAK
Member of Congress

WAYNE GILCHREST
Member of Congress

MARILYN MUSGRAVE
Member of Congress