



H-2B TALKING POINTS

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H-2B employers follow the law. When there aren't enough U.S. workers available to fill jobs during our busy, peak seasons, we supplement them with foreign workers – and as users of the H-2B visa program, we go to a lot of extra trouble to make sure these employees are authorized to work in the U.S. Please don't punish us for the pains we take to stay on the right side of the law – help us by making sure the H-2B program works.

Seasonal employers need a seasonal visa program. The H-2B program is far from perfect. The regulations are cumbersome, the bureaucracy sluggish and many of the requirements are unrealistic. Still, despite these problems, the number of employers using the H-2B program grew fivefold during the boom years from 1997 to 2007. What this proves: how badly many employers need a seasonal visa program to meet their fluctuating seasonal labor needs.

The H-2B program creates jobs for Americans. My H-2B workers increase the capacity of my company, allowing me to fill additional contracts and augment the volume of business I do during my busy season. This in turn allows me to hire more U.S. workers, usually for more skilled jobs and often year-round. If the H-2B program did not exist, I would have to downsize my business or even close – and I would have to fire some or all of my U.S. employees.

Don't destroy a government program that works. The H-2B program is a win-win-win – it works for me, for my H-2B employees and for the Americans who work alongside them. How many other government programs can make that claim? Don't destroy the H-2B program with additional burdensome regulations. Streamline and improve it so that it works even better for all of us.

Workplace enforcement and worker visas – a carrot-and-stick approach to restoring the rule of law. The overwhelming majority of employers want to be on the right side of the law – it's their obligation as citizens, and it makes good business sense. As Congress improves worksite immigration enforcement, more employers will want to participate in legal visa programs, including H-2B. And now is the time, as lawmakers consider expanding E-Verify, to make sure existing temporary visa programs work – to remove burdensome regulations, streamline procedures and make the size of the programs more responsive to fluctuating U.S. labor needs.