



MEDIA ADVISORY
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EMPLOYERS ASK FOR WORKER VISAS

WASHINGTON – More than 270 Texas and Arizona business leaders signed letters sent yesterday to their congressional representatives, including two influential members of the House Judiciary Committee, urging them to support a temporary worker program for less-skilled immigrants.

“There’s no mistaking the message here,” said Tamar Jacoby, president of ImmigrationWorks USA, which worked with state groups to coordinate the letters. “Employers in an array of sectors count on less-skilled immigrants as a vital part of their labor force, and they want a way to hire them legally when there are no willing and able Americans.”

The Texas letter was signed by 185 employers and business associations from the Texas Association of Business and the Texas Restaurant Association to small, family-owned construction and landscaping companies. It was sent to Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee, including Rep. Lamar Smith.

“The heart of reform is fixing the legal immigration system so it works for America in the future, admitting the immigrants we need and preventing future illegal immigration,” the Texas letter said. “We urge you to help deliver legislation that provides the workforce Texas employers need to keep their businesses open and contributing to the economy.”

The Arizona letter was signed by 84 employers and business associations including the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, Arizona State University and an array of businesses, large and small. It was sent to members of the Arizona House delegation, including Rep. Trent Franks, Republican member of the House Judiciary Committee.

“The House Judiciary Committee has recently approved measures designed to meet the nation’s need for highly skilled immigrants and agricultural guest workers,” the Arizona letter said. “The remaining piece that needs to be addressed: visas for less-skilled workers to fill year-round jobs in hospitality, health care, food processing, construction and other non-farm sectors. The best antidote to illegal immigration is a legal immigration system that works.”

Click [**HERE**](#) to read the letters.

ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby can be reached for comment at 202 480-2076.

ImmigrationWorks USA is a national federation of employers working to advance better immigration law. The network links major corporations, national trade associations and 25 state-based coalitions of small to medium-sized business owners concerned that the broken immigration system is holding back the nation’s economic growth. Their shared aim: legislation that brings America’s annual legal intake of foreign workers more realistically into line with the country’s labor needs.