

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 13, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Noem and Secretary Chavez-DeRemer,

We write on behalf of the seasonal businesses in our states who lack sufficient employees to support their operations and sustain their businesses. In light of these labor shortages, we respectfully urge that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the Department of Labor (DOL), utilize the authority provided by Congress in the current Continuing Resolution to release the maximum allowable number of additional H-2B for Fiscal Year 2026. These visas will allow employers to supplement their U.S. workforce to keep their businesses open, as well as provide additional certainty regarding their workforce planning decisions in the coming months.

Chronic labor shortages—faced by seasonal U.S. employers throughout the nation’s history—have been exacerbated by the post-pandemic evolution of the American workforce. As this need grows, so does the pressure on U.S. workers, whose employers’ workforce needs cannot be met with American workers alone. The H-2B program places requirements on employers to recruit U.S. workers, who are intentionally prioritized by the program and receive demonstrated, positive impacts from their seasonal colleagues. In fact, a 2020 Government Accountability Office report concluded that “counties with H-2B employers generally had lower unemployment rates and higher average weekly wages than counties that do not have any H-2B employers.”¹ Issuing the extra discretionary H-2B visas in a timely manner will help alleviate these workforce shortages and, in doing so, will help create and sustain the jobs of American workers who rely on the H-2B workers to support their duties during their peak seasons.

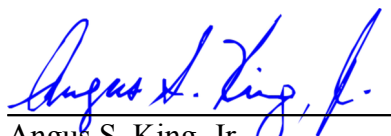
It is important to note that supplemental visas are set aside specifically for either returning workers or workers from Northern Central American (NCA) countries. Many returning workers are those who return to their qualified employer each year and are core members of their respective organizations, supplementing and supporting U.S. workers. NCA workers are carved out with a special tranche of visas to help foster regional stability in these impoverished nations. In addition, H-2B workers return to their home country at the end of the season and then use the legal process to return to the qualified U.S. employer for the next season. This exemption for NCA countries was initially introduced during President Trump’s first term, allowing many

¹ United States, Congress, “H-2B VISAS: Additional Steps Needed to Meet Employers' Hiring Needs and Protect U.S. Workers.” *H-2B VISAS: Additional Steps Needed to Meet Employers' Hiring Needs and Protect U.S. Workers*, GAO-20-230; U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2020, pp. 13–14.

seasonal businesses to invest in these workers, even as they continue to work with the returning workers eligible under the parameters of the supplemental tranche of H-2B visas.

An efficient analysis, issuance of a rule, and release of these visas allows the supplemental tranche of H-2B visas to meet the seasonal market demand during the market cycles when they are most needed. We thank you for your continued support—in recognizing the vital benefit to the economy of these seasonal, temporary work visas—and we are hopeful the maximum allowable FY26 supplemental visas will promptly be released pursuant to Congressional authority and in the same manner as in the three previous years.

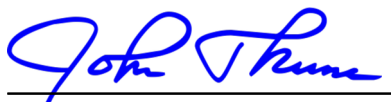
Sincerely,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



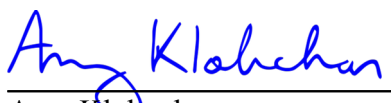
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



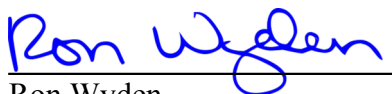
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



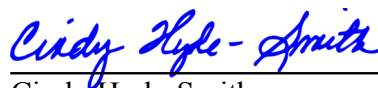
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



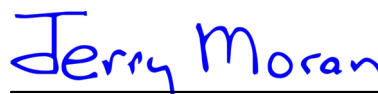
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



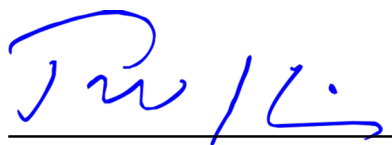
Jerry Moran
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator