



June 14, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

The National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) supports the American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6), legislation to provide a permanent solution for individuals now working under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and those in the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. NRCA supports H.R. 6 as a first step towards broader reform of our immigration system that addresses our nation's security, workforce and economic needs in a balanced and comprehensive manner. As you know, H.R. 6 was approved by the House in March with bipartisan support, and we urge the Senate to consider this legislation soon.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of roofing professionals worldwide. NRCA's nearly 4,000 member companies represent all segments of the industry, including contractors, manufacturers, distributors, consultants and other employers in all 50 states and internationally. NRCA members are typically small, privately held companies with the average member employing 45 people and attaining sales of \$4.5 million per year. The U.S. roofing industry is an essential \$100 billion+ sector with nearly 1 million employees that provides critical materials and services to ensure home and business safety.

A chronic shortage of qualified workers is the most significant limitation on the ability of roofing industry employers to grow their businesses in today's economy. Most contractors indicate they could be doing 10 to 20 percent or more work if they could only fill vacant positions, which translates to an estimated \$3.6 billion to \$7.2 billion in lost economic activity annually. Workforce shortages will become even more acute due to an aging workforce and other demographic trends in the future. This situation persists despite the well-paying, family-sustaining jobs offered in our industry (as of May 2020, the mean hourly wage for roofing workers was \$22.60 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Given the chronic workforce shortages already confronting our industry, as well as the failure of previous Congresses to enact legislation to reform and update our immigration system, ending TPS designations for employees who have been working legally in the U.S. for many years and failing to address the situation of the DACA population will only exacerbate the workforce shortages now facing our members. This is especially true in the construction industry, in which approximately 51,700 TPS individuals are now legally employed. Failure to address this

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situation would also cause severe disruption for many hardworking individuals and families who have been contributing to their communities for many years.

Given the urgency of the situation faced by TPS and DACA individuals and their employers, NRCA supports passage of H.R. 6 as a first step in addressing broader reform of our immigration system. The urgency of the situation has only increased given recent court decisions and pending cases related to TPS and DACA. NRCA looks forward to working on a bipartisan basis on additional reforms to our immigration system that are long overdue. It is critical that Congress also consider reforms to our visa system designed to strengthen economic growth by meeting the long-term workforce needs of the roofing industry along with improvements to workplace enforcement efforts and strengthened border security.

Thank you for your consideration of NRCA's views on this important issue. For more information, please contact Duane Musser in NRCA's Washington, D.C., office at (202) 546-7584 or dmusser@nrca.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reid Ribble". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Reid Ribble
Chief Executive Officer

cc. All members of U.S. Senate