

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

The National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) supports the Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6), as modified by the House Judiciary Committee, which would provide a permanent solution for "Dreamers" and employees now working under Temporary Protected Status (TPS). We urge your support for this critical legislation.

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. NRCA members are typically small, privately held companies with the average member employing 45 people and attaining sales of \$4.5 million per year.

A chronic shortage of qualified workers is the most significant limitation on the ability of our members to grow their businesses in today's economy. The severity of workforce shortages in roofing is approaching crisis proportions and will become even more acute due to an aging workforce and other demographic trends, as well as ongoing rebuilding efforts resulting from numerous natural disasters in recent years.

Given the chronic workforce shortages already confronting our industry, as well as the failure of Congress to pass immigration reform, ending TPS designations for employees working legally in the U.S and failing to address the situation of Dreamers 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. In addition, this would cause severe disruption for millions of hard-working individuals and families who have been contributing to our industry and their communities for many years.

Given the urgency of the situation faced by TPS individuals, Dreamers and their employers, NRCA looks forward to working with lawmakers and the administration to bring about a bipartisan solution to this issue. Tackling this most pressing issue now will provide a template for further cooperation on efforts to address other components of our broken immigration system, including legislation to combat illegal immigration as well as visa reforms to strengthen economic growth by meeting the long-term workforce needs of roofing and other industries. NRCA urges the House to take a necessary first step on immigration in the 116th Congress by approving H.R. 6 as modified by the Judiciary Committee. We look forward to continuing to work with lawmakers to further improve this legislation as the legislative process continues.

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

Sincerely,

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Reid Ribble Chief Executive Officer

cc. All members of U.S. House of Representatives