



ROOFING DAY IN D.C.

2019

Immigration Reform that Meets Workforce Needs

Roofing industry employers provide family-sustaining jobs for qualified employees but face chronic workforce shortages because of an aging workforce and other demographic trends. Immigration reform that meets employers' workforce needs and helps combat illegal immigration is vital to addressing this long-term problem and boosting economic growth.

The roofing industry supports increased border security, expanding E-Verify to address illegal immigration and visa reform that allows workers to enter the U.S. legally when the economy needs them. Sensible immigration reform should address the workforce needs of the roofing industry in a way that ends illegal immigration without encouraging a hidden economy.

Workforce for an Expanding Economy Act

The **Workforce for an Expanding Economy Act** (H.R. 1740) by Reps. Smucker (R-Pa.) and Rooney (R-Fla.) establishes a visa system that meets the needs of a 21st century economy. It is governed by market forces and will provide more visas in times of economic strength and fewer during downturns. Participating employers must use E-Verify and may only participate if unemployment in their area is less than 5 percent. It protects workers, is easy for employers to use, and will enable job creators to obtain the workers needed to sustain and grow their businesses.

H.R. 1740 will address chronic workforce shortages by establishing a two-track system that matches willing employers with willing temporary workers based on economic conditions. To obtain a permit to hire a visa holder, an employer must test the market and attest the position cannot otherwise be filled. Unlike existing visa programs, once the worker arrives on the job, he or she or the employer may terminate the relationship at any time. If this occurs, the employer is free to hire another visa holder and the worker is free to take a job with any employer who holds a permit. Workers will be tracked as they move from job to job under a system similar to that which is now being used to track student visa holders. This new, innovative visa system will help address workforce needs in a balanced manner and is vital to the success of the roofing industry.

Temporary Protected Status

The roofing industry also supports legislation to allow qualified individuals who have been working legally in the U.S. under Temporary Protected Status to adjust to legal permanent resident status. This will enable hardworking individuals (the workforce participation rate among most TPS holders is more than 80 percent) with a strong track record to continue contributing to their companies and our economy. The roofing industry appreciates the introduction of the **Dream and Promise Act** (H.R. 6) by Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.), which will provide qualifying TPS workers with legal permanent resident status and remain productive members of their communities. We urge lawmakers to work on a bipartisan basis to develop balanced solutions that fix our broken immigration system to meet the needs of employers and employees and grow our economy.

Request: Co-sponsor the Workforce for an Expanding Economy Act (H.R. 1740) and support advancing the Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6) on a bipartisan basis to address the roofing industry's workforce needs.

Questions? Contact NRCA's Washington, D.C., office at (202) 546-7584 or (800) 338-5765.

