



Immigration Reform is Vital to the Roofing Industry

Roofing industry employers provide good jobs for qualified workers but face chronic workforce shortages because of an aging workforce and other demographic trends. Immigration reform that meets roofing industry employers' workforce needs is vital to addressing this long-term problem and significantly boosting economic growth.

Sensible immigration reform should address the roofing industry's workforce needs in a manner that ends illegal immigration without encouraging a black-market economy. The roofing industry supports increased border security, mandatory E-Verify for all employers (Legal Workforce Act, H.R. 3711), providing a visa system to allow workers to enter the U.S. legally when our economy needs them, and addressing the existing unauthorized workforce in a balanced manner.

A fatal flaw of the 1986 immigration reform law was it failed to provide a mechanism to allow for **legal** immigration in accord with economic demand for industries such as roofing. To rectify this problem, Congress should establish a visa system available to industries such as roofing that is governed by market forces; ensures employers undertake vigorous efforts to hire U.S. workers first and protects foreign workers; is easy for employers to use; and enables job creators to obtain the workers needed to meet demand and grow their businesses.

The roofing industry commends Sen. Johnson (R-Wis.) for introducing the State Sponsored Visa Pilot Program (S. 1040) to address the needs of businesses facing workforce shortages by allowing states to create visa programs that best suit their economies. This innovative approach is one potential solution to the workforce challenges faced by roofing industry employers.

The roofing industry supports a legislative solution to allow qualified individuals who have been working legally in the U.S. under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to adjust to legal permanent resident status. Such legislation should allow individuals from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Haiti who have been working legally within the roofing industry for many years to continue contributing to their communities and our economy.

The roofing industry has strong concerns regarding recent proposals that would reduce legal immigration, such as the Securing America's Future Act (H.R. 4760) by Rep. Goodlatte (R-Va.) and the Secure and Succeed Act (S. Amdt. 1959) by Sen. Grassley (R-Iowa). It is imperative reform recognizes the need for legal immigration when jobs otherwise will go unfilled by U.S. workers. Providing for sufficient legal immigration to meet economic demand is critical to addressing the roofing industry's future workforce needs. We look forward to working with Congress to develop balanced solutions that fix our broken immigration system and grow the economy.

Request: Support legal immigration that meets the roofing industry's workforce needs.

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

