



May 23, 2024

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The National Roofing Contractors Association urges your support to address critical workforce needs with the inclusion of a returning worker exemption for the H-2B seasonal guestworker program in the FY 2024 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill. NRCA supports this provision in the bill approved by the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee that would help alleviate workforce shortages which are approaching crisis proportions.

The H-2B program is critical to numerous employers, including many NRCA members, who often cannot find local workers to fill job openings during peak season. The program provides an opportunity for businesses to operate at greater capacity during peak season, retain their full-time workers and contribute to local and state economies. Seasonal workers help support many upstream and downstream jobs. According to a study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, every H-2B worker is estimated to create or sustain 4.64 American jobs.

Unfortunately, the program's annual 66,000 cap (33,000 for each half of the fiscal year) is woefully inadequate to meet the demands of today's economy in which workforce shortages have become ever more acute. As you may know, demand for visas has been far above the cap in recent years which has resulted in many employers being shut out of obtaining the workers needed to meet demand. Absent legislative relief from the statutory cap, many employers will again be forced to turn away customers and sacrifice opportunities to grow their businesses and expand economic activity.

The H-2B program is extremely costly and complicated, yet employers turn to it because it is the only option for addressing peak workforce needs. The program requires employers to undertake extensive recruitment of American workers, gain approval from government agencies and pay a premium wage.

As the committee moves forward with the FY 2024 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, NRCA urges your support for a returning worker exemption from the outdated cap on H-2B visas necessary to meet demand. This is critical for continued economic growth in the roofing industry as well as the broader economy.

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION | WASHINGTON OFFICE

Thank you for your careful consideration of NRCA's views on this important issue. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Duane Musser, NRCA's vice president of government relations, at 202-546-7584 or dmusser@nrca.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kyle Thomas
Chairman of the Board

CC: All Members of the House Appropriations Committee