



# H-2B

## WORKFORCE COALITION



**Ashley McNeil, Chair**  
American Hotel &  
Lodging Association

**Arnulfo Hinojosa Vice Chair**  
Federation of Employers and Workers of  
America

**Andrew Bray, Treasurer**  
National Association of Landscape  
Professionals

**Laurie Flanagan, Secretary**  
DC Legislative and Regulatory Services

**Steering Committee:**

American Hotel and Lodging Association

AmericanHort

American Rental Association

Federation of Employers and Workers of  
America

Forest Resources Association

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Mackinac Island Convention & Visitors  
Bureau

National Association of Landscape  
Professionals

Outdoor Amusement Business Association

Texas Nursery and Landscape Association

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

U.S. Travel Association

August 19, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretaries Rubio and Noem:

The H-2B Workforce Coalition is comprised of small and seasonal businesses across the country owned and operated by thousands of employers and their representatives from industries such as lodging, landscaping, seafood, restaurants, tourism, equine, forestry, mobile outdoor amusement, golf courses, and others. Our members are seasonal businesses that rely on the H-2B visa program to supplement their U.S. workforce during seasonal surge and peak business times. We are concerned that State Department's policy to eliminate interview waivers for many H-2B workers could delay the ability to hire H-2B workers in a timely manner. We ask that the State Department reinstate its policy of visa waiver interviews for qualifying H-2B workers.

The H-2B program relies on well-vetted returning workers who come to the U.S. for seasonal employment and then go home. These workers are not immigrants. Businesses cannot hire H-2B workers unless the U.S. Department of Labor certifies that the company is unable to find American workers to fill their job openings and that the employment of foreign nationals will not adversely impact the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers. They provide an opportunity for U.S. businesses to operate at a greater capacity, retain their full-time workers and contribute to their local economies. Seasonal workers help support many upstream and downstream jobs. Every H-2B worker is estimated to create and sustain 4.64 American jobs.

In July, the Department of State issued a statement that certain categories of applicants would lose their eligibility for interview waivers effective September 2<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>1</sup> H-2B workers were not among the categories listed as exempt from this update. This update is deeply concerning to seasonal businesses who use the H-2B program to supplement their domestic workforce during peak times. We are hopeful that H-2B workers were omitted in error. If this

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<sup>1</sup> Attachment 1.

omission is not an oversight, we are concerned it may deviate from President Trump's stance on protecting hospitality and other seasonal industries.

When the interview waiver authorities were expanded under the first Trump Administration, that expansion, "transformed the Department's ability to process nonimmigrant visas securely and efficiently," allowing the Department of State (State) to balance the needs of national security, visa demands, and departmental resources.<sup>2</sup> Since that waiver was established, State and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have agreed that it is in the national interest to waive interviews for H-2 applicants, especially returning H-2 workers who have complied with the terms of past visas.

Timely admission of already well-vetted H-2B workers is essential for seasonal business that need supplemental workers during specific times of the year. Even small delays could harm seasonal businesses. These businesses typically generate most of their profits during their peak seasons. They use these profits to pay and invest in their year-round American workers and their communities. Should H-2B workers be stuck among a backlog of visa applicants, it could impact the ability of seasonal businesses to serve their customers and communities, promote and hire U.S. workers and purchase equipment and supplies. Without a dramatic change to State's capacity to conduct interviews, this policy change will create a strain on State visa adjudicators and support staff at the consulates. The resulting backlog could impact the timely admission of critical H-2B workers.

As representatives of the H-2B user community, we welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you further. We hope that the Administration will reinstate the policy of visa waiver interviews for qualifying H-2B workers.

Sincerely,



Ashley McNeil  
Chair



Arnulfo Hinojosa  
Vice Chair

cc:

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Secretary of Labor  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Ms. Susie Wiles  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

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<sup>2</sup> Attachment 2.