

to reality. Let's act boldly and fulfill our mandate. It's time to end this misguided occupation. It's time to bring our troops home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

H-2B RETURNING WORKER PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of extending the H-2B returning worker program this year.

The H-2B visa program was created to provide access to nonimmigrant temporary workers for seasonal and peak load needs when no American workers can be found. Foreign workers offer small and seasonal businesses short-term help and return to their home country at the end of the season.

H-2B visas are capped at 66,000 visas per year. Even with 66,000 visas a year, it still does not meet the labor needs of seasonal businesses. To help fill these additional needs, Congress established the H-2B returning worker program in 2005. This program exempts returning workers who have received an H-2B visa in one of the three previous fiscal years from counting against the 66,000 cap. However, this program expired on September 30.

On September 27, 4 days before the season even started, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service had already received enough visa petitions to exceed the cap for H-2B visas for the first half of fiscal year 2008. The application process for the second half of fiscal year 2008 began on December 3, two days ago.

Without extending the returning worker program, it's expected that the visas will go quickly, leaving many businesses without the workers they need to fulfill their business needs. This demand highlights the immediate need for Congress to extend the H-2B returning worker program to help small and seasonal businesses fill their seasonal labor needs and keep full-time Americans and their businesses working.

These returning workers have provided relief to small businesses throughout the Nation, covering a

broad spectrum of industries like landscapers, tourism, seafood processors and carnivals.

At this time, I will enter into the RECORD a letter from the H-2B Workforce Coalition in support of extending the H-2B returning worker program.

WORKFORCE COALITION,
November 19, 2007.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As representatives of tens of thousands of seasonal employers throughout the country, we urge you to support H.R. 1843, the "Save Our Small and Seasonal Business Act of 2007."

This bipartisan bill would simply renew the highly successful relief provision for the H-2B visa program that was initially approved by the Senate by 94-6 in 2005. This provision recognizes the reliability and trustworthiness of past participants in the H-2B program by exempting those temporary seasonal workers who have participated fiscal the H-2B visa program and have completely followed the law during the past three fiscal years from counting toward the statutory cap.

The congressionally mandated 66,000 annual cap on the number of workers allowed to participate in the program that was established in 1990 does not reflect current economic realities or meet the needs of businesses which are seasonal or have peak load needs that rely on these workers.

Before employers can hire temporary seasonal workers under the program, they must advertise their job openings, work with local unemployment offices to identify potential American workers and offer the positions to any qualified domestic applicants. The jobs these guest workers fill do not take jobs away from Americans. It is not until employers have carried out this time consuming and expensive due diligence in trying to hire American workers that they are allowed to petition the federal government for a labor certification and ultimately bring in temporary workers—their final option to run their seasonal businesses.

In fiscal year 2004, the statutory cap was reached on March 9—only six months into the fiscal year and before many summer employers had an opportunity to apply for seasonal workers. As a result, many of these businesses had to cancel events, operate at partial capacity, not open parts of their businesses, or have their full-time staff work overtime to the point of burnout.

Each subsequent year, the cap has been reached sooner as a result of the increased need for seasonal workers and an increasing labor shortage. The cap for the first half of fiscal year 2008 was reached on September 27—3 days before the fiscal year even began.

Without immediate action by Congress, widespread economic consequences will severely impact diverse economic sectors throughout the country including lodging, restaurants, landscaping, clubs, amusement parks, ski resorts, food processing, stone, travel and tourism, horse sports, construction, entertainment, hospitality, recreation and many other seasonal industries.

On behalf of thousands of small businesses and seasonal employers throughout the country, we urge you to support H.R. 1843 and secure its immediate passage.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:
American Forest & Paper Association
American Horse Council
American Hotel & Lodging Association
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Nursery and Landscape Association
American Rental Association
American Trucking Associations

Asian American Convenience Store Association

Asian American Hotel Owners Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated General Contractors of America
Federation of Employers and Workers of America

International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions
Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute
International Franchise Association
National Club Association
National Federation of Independent Business

National Restaurant Association
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Ski Areas Association
National Thoroughbred Racing Association
Outdoor Amusement Business Association
Professional Landcare Network
Tree Care Industry Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

State and Regional Organizations:
Alabama Forestry Association
Alabama Hospitality Association
Alabama Restaurant Association
Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association
Alaska Restaurant & Beverage Association
Arizona Hotel & Lodging Association
Arizona Landscape Contractors Association

Arkansas Forestry Association
Arkansas Hospitality Association
Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado

Branson Lakes Area Lodging Association
California Hotel & Lodging Association
California Ski Industry Association
Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association

Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals

Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association
Colorado Restaurant Association
Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin
Delaware Restaurant Association
East Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Florida Forestry Association
Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association

Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association
Georgia Restaurant Association
Gulf Oyster Industry Council
Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce

Hospitality Association of South Carolina
Hotel and Lodging Association of Greater Kansas City

Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association
Indiana Hotel & Lodging Association
Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association
Illinois Landscape Contractors Association
Iowa Lodging Association

Iowa Restaurant Association
Kentucky Hotel & Lodging Association
Kentucky Nursery & Landscape Association

Kentucky Restaurant Association
Kentucky Turfgrass Council
Landscape Contractors Association MD-DC-VA

Lawns of Wisconsin Network
Long Island Hotel and Lodging Association
Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau

Maine Campground Owners Association
Maine Innkeepers Association
Maine Merchants Association
Maine Restaurant Association
Maine Tourism Association
Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association
Massachusetts Lodging Association
Massachusetts Nursery & Landscape Association

Massachusetts Restaurant Association
Metro Atlanta Landscape & Turf Association

- Michigan Green Industry Association
Michigan Hotel, Motel & Resort Association
Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association
Michigan Restaurant Association
Mid-America Green Industry Council
Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association
Minnesota Restaurant Association
Missouri Restaurant Association
Montana Innkeepers Association
Montauk Chamber of Commerce
Myrtle Beach Area Hospitality Association
Nebraska Hotel & Motel Association
Nevada Hotel & Lodging Association
Nevada Landscape Association
New England Apple Council
New Hampshire Lodging & Restaurant Association
New Jersey Green Industry Council
New Jersey Hotel & Lodging Association
New Jersey Irrigation Association
New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association
New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association
New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association
New York State Lawn Care Association
New York State Restaurant Association
New York State Turf & Landscape Association
New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association
North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association
North Dakota Hospitality Association
Northern Colorado Stone Quarriers Association
Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association
Ohio Landscape Association
Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association
Ohio Restaurant Association
Oklahoma Greenhouse Growers Association
Oklahoma Hotel and Lodging Association
Oklahoma Nursery & Landscape Association
Oklahoma Restaurant Association
Oregon Landscape Contractors Association
Oregon Lodging Association
Oregon Restaurant Association
Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association
Pennsylvania Restaurant Association
Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging Association
Restaurant Association of Maryland
Rhode Island Hospitality & Tourism Association
South Carolina Forestry Association
South Texas Nursery Growers Association
Southern Innkeepers Association
Southampton Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Hotel & Lodging Association
Tennessee Restaurant Association
Texas Forestry Association
Texas Horsemen's Partnership
Texas Hotel & Lodging Association
Texas Nursery & Landscape Association
Texas Restaurant Association
Utah Hotel & Lodging Association
Vermont Ski Areas Association
Virginia Green Industry Council
Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association
Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association
Washington Association of Landscape Professionals
Washington State Hotel & Lodging Association
Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association
West Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association
- Wisconsin Green Industry Federation
Wisconsin Innkeepers Association
Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association
Wisconsin Nursery Association
Wisconsin Restaurant Association
Wisconsin Sod Producers Association
Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association
- Businesses:*
360 Degree Realty, Illinois
4T Total Lawn, Kansas
A-1 Chipseal Co., Colorado
A & A Construction Company, Texas
A To Z Lawn and Landscaping, Ohio
A.E. Phillips & Son, Maryland
A & M Underground Irrigation Systems, South Dakota
A Cut Above Landscape Management, Georgia
A Perfect Landscape, Colorado
A.S.T. Landscape Services, Texas
A Yard & A Half Landscaping, Massachusetts
A Wave Inn, New York
AA Tex-Lawn, North Carolina
AAA Landscape, Arizona
Abernethy & Spencer Greenhouses, Virginia
Absolute Landscaping Inc., New Jersey
Acacia Digging & Transplanting Services, Texas
Academy Sports Turf, Colorado
Ace Landscaping Corporation, Washington
Ackerson Landscape, Missouri
Acres Group, Illinois
Adams Landscaping, New York
Adventure Bound Camping Resorts, New Hampshire
Affordable Lawn Sprinklers & Lighting, Virginia
Airporter Inn, California
Akala, Florida
Al Allentuck Landscaping, Maryland
Alder Springs Enterprises, Maryland
All Around Concrete Cutting, Louisiana
All Around Concrete Demolition, Louisiana
All Pro Landscaping of Tallahassee, Florida
Allin Companies, Pennsylvania
Allen's Landscaping and Maintenance, Virginia
Almeda Wholesale Nursery, Colorado
Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, California
Amberscapes, Texas
Amelia Island Plantation, Florida
American Beauty Landscaping, Ohio
American Landscape, Wisconsin
America's Best Inn, Vicksburg, Mississippi
America's Catch, Mississippi
Ameriworks Global, Louisiana
Anchor Retaining Wall Systems, Texas
Anewalt's Landscape Contracting, Pennsylvania
Angel Inn of Branson, Missouri
Ann Breyer's Cottages, New York
Aplin Masonry of Telluride, Colorado
Apgar Turf Farm, Delaware
Aqua Barrier Exterior Waterproofing, Tennessee
Aqua-Lawn, Connecticut
Arapahoe Acres Nursery & Landscaping, Colorado
Arapahoe Horticulture, Colorado
Architectural Paving Systems, Oklahoma
Aqualawn, Ohio
ArborLawn, Michigan
Architerra, Illinois
Armstrong Landscape & Design Group, Texas
Arrowhead Resort, Michigan
Arteka Companies, Minnesota
ArtisTree, Florida
Artistree Nursery & Landscape Design, Florida
Artistic Designs Lawn & Landscape, Kansas
- Arvest Bank, Missouri
Aspen Corporation, West Virginia
Aspen Grove Landscape Company, Maryland
Aspen Lawn Care, Kansas
Aspen Skiing Company, Colorado
Atlantic Plants, New Jersey
Diamond Landscapes, Kentucky
Dinneen Landscaping, Massachusetts
DMB-Highlands Group LLC, California
Doctor's Inc., Kansas
Doctors "At the Lake" Inc, Kansas
Doctor's Lawn & Landscape, Kansas
Dom's Landscaping, New York
Don CeSar Beach Resort, Florida
Duke's Tree Landscape Management, New Jersey
Dominguez Racing Stables, New Mexico
Double A Contracting, Texas
Double JJ Concrete, Colorado
Dove Creek Quarries, Utah
Dowco Enterprises, Missouri
Driftwood, New York
Dune Management, New York
Duryea's Lobster Deck, New York
Dusty Lout Agri Service, Texas
Dwyer Designscapes, Kentucky
E.A. Quinn Landscape Contracting, Connecticut
E.L. Irrigation & Landscaping, Texas
Eagle Crest Nursery, Colorado
East Deck Motel, New York
East Hampton House, New York
East West Resorts, Colorado
Eastgate Sod, Ohio
Eastern Land Management, Connecticut
Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Florida
Eco-Cutters, Colorado
ECO Specialty Systems, Missouri
Econo Lodge, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Econo Lodge, Flagstaff, Arizona
Econo Lodge, West Springfield, Massachusetts
ECOSystems Landscape Service, Texas
Ed Castro Landscape, Georgia
Edmundson Inc, Colorado
El Jarrito Restaurants, Texas
The Elevation Hotel and Spa, Colorado
Elite Lawn & Landscape, Ohio
Elite Lawn & Landscape, Tennessee
Elite Professional Lawn & Landscaping, Texas
Ellis Cement Contracting, Ohio
Embassy Lawn & Landscaping Group, Missouri
Emerald Lawn Care & Landscaping, Kansas
The Enchantment Resort & Spa, Arizona
Enviroscapes, Ohio
Epic Landscape Production, Kansas
Equibrand Products Group, Texas
Estate Landscape & Irrigation, California
Evening Shade Lawn Care, New Jersey
Evergreen Gene's, Maryland
Evergreen of Johnson City, Tennessee
Executive Moving Systems, Virginia
F. Espinoza Landscaping, Illinois
Fairfax Golf, Oklahoma
The Fairmont Hotel, Texas
Fairway Landscape & Nursery, Texas
Falcon Executive Inn, Texas
Falfurrias Executive Inn, Texas
Farmside Landscape & Design, New Jersey
Felipe's Lawncare, Oklahoma
Fieldworks Landscape, Massachusetts
Florasearch, Florida
Florida Lawns, Florida
The Fockele Garden Company, Georgia
Focal Pointe Outdoor Solutions, Illinois
Fort Pond Lodge, New York
Frank's Used Tank & Heaters, Texas
Frank Sharum Landscape Design, Arkansas
Franz Witte Landscape Contracting, Idaho
Franzen Farms, Texas
Fred Adams Paving Co, North Carolina
Front Range Snow & Ice, Colorado
Frontier Landscaping, Washington
Fullmer's Landscaping, Ohio

G.W. Hall & Son, Maryland
 Gachina Landscape Management, California
 Gallegos Corporation, Colorado
 Gangemi Landscaping, New Jersey
 Garden Gate Landscaping, Maryland
 The Garden Greenhouse & Nursery, New Jersey
 The Garden of Gethsemane Nursery & Landscaping, Texas
 Garden State Irrigation, New Jersey
 Gardeners' Guild, California
 Gardens Beautiful Garden Centers, Wisconsin
 Garner's Northwest, Washington
 Garrick-Santo Landscape, Massachusetts
 Gateway National Golf Links, Illinois
 Gatlinburg Sky Lift, Tennessee
 GDK Leasing Inc., Florida
 Gear Garden Center, Ohio
 Geissler Tree Farms, Pennsylvania
 GEL Inc, Utah
 Genesis Lawn & Landscape Management, Arkansas
 Gentle Giant Moving Co., Massachusetts
 Giambrocco Greenhouses, Colorado
 Ginkgo Landscape Group, Illinois
 GLV Construction, New York
 The Good Earth Construction, Arkansas
 Good Labor, Alabama
 Goodwin Proturf, Kansas
 Gosman's Culloden House, New York
 Gosman's Restaurant, New York
 Gothic Grounds Management, California
 GPS Enterprises, Texas
 Graham & Rollins, Virginia
 Grand Hotel, Michigan
 The Grand Lodge Crested Butte, Colorado
 Grand Marais Hotel Company, Minnesota
 Grand Oaks Hotel, Missouri
 Grand Teton Lodge Company, Wyoming
 Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Michigan
 GrandScapes, Michigan
 Grandscapes Landscape & Design, New Jersey
 Lighthouse Inn, Massachusetts
 Lilac Tree Hotel & Spa, Michigan
 Lindy's Seafood Inc., Maryland
 Lindy's Taxi, New York
 Lipinski Landscape & Irrigation, New Jersey
 Lipinski Snow Services, New Jersey
 The Little Nell, Colorado
 Live Oak Landscape Contractors, New Jersey
 Living Water Landscaping & Irrigation, New Mexico
 LMC, Texas
 LMI Landscapes, Colorado
 LMI Landscapes, Florida
 LMI Landscapes, Texas
 LMS Guam, Guam
 The Lodge at Mountaineer Square, Colorado
 The Lodge of Four Seasons, Missouri
 Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, Arizona
 Longhorn Landscape Lighting & Holiday Decor, Texas
 Lonnett Lawn & Landscape Maintenance Service, Pennsylvania
 Loon Mountain, New Hampshire
 Loyet Landscape Maintenance, Missouri
 LSW Show Horses, Vermont
 LT Rental Services, New York
 Luciano & Son, Massachusetts
 Lueders Environmental, Massachusetts
 Lynch Landscaping, Maine
 Lyons Sandstone, Colorado
 M. Atkins Inc, Colorado
 M & M Mowing, Colorado
 Madison Planting & Design Group, Mississippi
 Magic Gardens Landscape Contractors, New Jersey
 Magma Industrial Co, Georgia
 Magnolia Landscaping, New Jersey
 Maid to Clean, Michigan
 Main Street Inn & Suites, Michigan

Mainscape, North Carolina
 Mandoki Hospitality Group, Alabama
 Mango Design, Utah
 Mark Kuppe & Associates, Michigan
 Mariani Landscape, Illinois
 Marriott International, Inc.
 Martin Associates, Illinois
 Martin Property Maintenance, Texas
 Marvin Windows and Doors, Minnesota
 Massengale Grounds Management, Louisiana
 Mau Landscapes, Ohio
 McCarthy's Landscaping & Irrigation, Massachusetts
 McFall & Berry Landscape Mgt, Maryland
 MCL, LLC, Virginia
 McGinty Bros., Inc. Lawn & Tree Care, Illinois
 McKenna Construction, New York
 Metco Landscape, Colorado
 Meticulous Landscaping, New Jersey
 Metivier Inn, Michigan
 Michael Bellantoni, Inc., New York
 Michigan Peddler, Michigan
 Michigan Vacation Rentals, Michigan
 Mickey's Carting, New York
 Microtel Inn & Suites, Dixon, California
 Midwest Landscapes, Minnesota
 Milberger's Landscaping, Texas
 Mike Ward Landscaping, Ohio
 Millieu Design, Illinois
 Miller Landscape, Georgia
 Mission Point Resort, Michigan
 Mohonk Mountain House, New York
 Molenaar Greenhouse, Pennsylvania
 Montauk Bake Shoppe, New York
 Montauk Bike Shop, New York
 Montauk Carriage House, New York
 Montauk Clothing Co., New York
 Montauk IGA, New York
 Montauk Inlet Seafood, New York
 Montauk Lighthouse Laundromat, New York
 Montauk Manor, New York
 Montauk Motel, New York
 Montauk Soundview, New York
 Montauk Sweatshirt Co., New York
 Montauk Taxi, New York
 Montauk Yacht Club, New York
 Moon Nurseries of Maryland
 Moon Site Management, Pennsylvania
 Moore Landscapes, Illinois
 Morin's Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance, New Hampshire
 Morin's Landscaping, New Hampshire
 Morton's Landscape Development Company, Ohio
 Mortellaro's Nursery, Texas
 Motivatiit Seafoods, Louisiana
 Mount Washington Resort, New Hampshire
 Moyer Home Turf Advantage, Pennsylvania
 MPS LLC, Louisiana
 MTK Cafe, New York
 Murdick's Fudge, Michigan
 Myer Hotels, Missouri
 Myers Family Enterprises, North Carolina
 Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club, Florida
 National Filter Service, Virginia
 Native Land Design, Texas
 Natorp's, Ohio
 Nature View Landscape, New Jersey
 Nature Works Landscapes, Massachusetts
 Naturescape, Ohio
 Naylor Landscape Management, Michigan
 NB Enterprises, Texas
 NCN, Inc, Washington
 Neave Landscaping, New York
 NETAJI, LLC, Georgia
 New Castle Hotels & Resorts
 Newcon Inc, North Carolina
 Newcrest Management, Texas
 The Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina, Rhode Island
 Newport Village Homeowners Association, Oklahoma
 Newton Construction, Texas

This letter is signed by over 1,300 organizations and small businesses from

every State in the union supporting this H-2B returning worker program.

H-2B workers offer short-term help. They cannot and do not stay in the United States. More importantly, the H-2B program contains strong provisions to ensure American workers have the first right to work.

Without an extension of the returning worker program, small and seasonal businesses will face significant labor shortages this year. If small businesses lose their ability to hire seasonal, nonimmigrant labor, full-time American jobs are at stake and may be lost.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GOLD, SILVER, COPPER AND THE PERU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to review a recent vote that was held here in this Congress regarding the so-called Peru Free Trade Agreement, and to encourage the American people to read the fine print and to pay attention to the connection between that Peru vote and the value of the U.S. dollar and some hidden forces that may have been responsible for bringing that vote on Peru to the forefront now. Because people in my district were saying, why vote on Peru now? Why vote on another NAFTA-like accord on trade when our balance of trade is so seriously out of whack? Let me mention for the RECORD, and I will place these articles in the RECORD this evening; Peru is the world's third largest producer of copper, zinc and tin. It is the biggest producer of silver, and is the fifth largest producer of gold. In fact, Peru has the largest gold mine in this hemisphere owned by an American company.

Many workers in the mines in Peru went on strike. Over 6,300 workers took their lives in their hands the Monday before the vote trying to send a message to the people of the United States and this Congress that they are treated unfairly, the wages they earn, conditions under which they work, their ability to share in profits, the ability to have decent pensions; all of those were very important issues. Their