

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &  
CHIEF POLICY OFFICER

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October 3, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce urges the Committee to favorably report H.R. 3711, the “Legal Workforce Act,” and the “Agricultural Guestworker Act.” The Chamber looks forward to working with you to improve the Agricultural Guestworker Act as the legislative process continues.

The Chamber strongly supports the Legal Workforce Act because it would make the mandatory use of the federal E-Verify system workable for the American business community. This legislation would preempt state and local laws mandating either the use of E-Verify or the establishment or continuation of state or local employment verification schemes. The bill would provide the clarity and consistency employers seek that is absent today, would mirror the existing Federal Acquisition Regulation rules for federal contractors using E-Verify on the current workforce, would create a clear safe harbor for good faith employers, and would establish an integrated I-9 and E-Verify system available both electronically and via telephone.

A critical precondition of the Chamber’s support for the Legal Workforce Act is that legislation be enacted to provide agricultural employers with a workable program to meet their labor needs. While several issues still need to be addressed in the bill, the Chamber is encouraged by the progress that has been made in crafting the Agricultural Guestworker Act. We look forward to working with the Committee and others in Congress to address these outstanding issues.

In addition, the Chamber is eager to work with the Committee and Congress on other immigration issues where reforms are desperately needed, such as legislation to address the backlogs in employment-based green card categories, enhance high-skilled temporary worker programs, and create a broad temporary worker program for lesser-skilled workers in non-agricultural employment.

Finally, the Chamber urges the expeditious enactment of legislation that would provide permanent relief to individuals impacted by the President's rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. Impending deadlines require swift action on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil L. Bradley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil L. Bradley

cc: Members of the Committee on the Judiciary