

February 21, 2025

The Honorable William Cassidy
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy,

We, the undersigned associations of this letter, represent the vast majority of users of the temporary, nonimmigrant H-2B guestworker program. In this letter, we wish to reiterate our support of the confirmation of Ms. Chavez-Deremer and urge you to support her confirmation.

Ms. Chavez-Deremer has a strong working knowledge of both the H-2A and H-2B seasonal guest-worker programs. She contributed to the Agriculture Labor Working Group's report on suggested reforms to agriculture labor policy¹. Reforms included a single portal for filing H-2A applications, expedited review of delayed applications and wage reform. We are confident she understands the need for reforms to the H-2B program, balancing both the concerns of industry and labor.

In her time in Congress, she frequently met with representatives of Oregon's forestry industry, which is almost wholly reliant on the H-2B program. Much of the Willamette National Forest was in her district. It was clear from these meetings that she saw the need for the H-2B program and its importance in addressing occupational and geographically specific workforce shortages. This comports with industry unemployment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) that show the industry unemployment rate for the top H-2B industries (except for NAICS 11, which accounts for the lowest percentage of filings among these industries) is lower than the long term (10-year) average.

Additionally, she understands the need to address the systemic processing delays for the H-2B program which you have frequently raised as ranking member of the committee. We believe she will be a strong partner in streamlining H-2B processing to resolve the current delays. In FY2024, DOL processed less than 50% of applications on time meaning issuing a labor certification within 30 days of an employer's requested start date. This is unacceptable and has led to employers receiving their workers months late.

¹ Agricultural Labor Working Group | Final Report With Policy Recommendations | March 7, 2024

For the reasons outlined above, we urge you to support the confirmation of Ms. Chavez-Deremer.

Sincerely,

Gray Delany
Executive Director
Seasonal Employment Alliance

Ashley McNeil
Vice President, Federal Affairs
American Hotel and Lodging Association

Greg Chiecko
President
Outdoor Amusement Business Association

Kendrin Simms Brachman
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