



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

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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

April 1, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Rubio:

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. The State Department's policy of requiring interviews for all H-2B workers including previously vetted returning workers, combined with reductions in consular processing staff at some embassies, is delaying 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 supports between 2 and 5 American jobs.¹

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.² 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.

¹ Bronars, Stephen. *The Impact of the H-2B Visa Program on the Employment and Wages of U.S. Workers*. 2025.

² Attachment.

Timely admission of already well-vetted H-2B workers is essential for seasonal business that need supplemental workers during specific times of the year. The current delays in scheduling visa interviews are harming seasonal businesses who need their workers this spring. 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. H-2B workers are stuck among a backlog of visa applicants, impacting the ability of seasonal businesses to timely serve their customers and communities.

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, U. S. Department of Labor
The Honorable Markwayne Mullin, Secretary, U. S. Department of Homeland Security
The Vince Haley, Director, Domestic Policy Council of the United States
The Kevin Hassett, Director, National Economic Council of the United States