

What They're Saying:

Border Security And Immigration Reform Agreement

Business And Agriculture Groups Say "It Is Critical That The Process Moves Forward"

"We Must Not Give Up Now"

The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, National Restaurant Association, Business Roundtable, National Association Of Manufacturers, And National Federation Of Independent Business:

"As trade associations representing the full spectrum of the American economy, we applaud the hard work of a bipartisan team of senators and the Administration for their role in crafting S.1348. We realize that many difficult issues will remain, but it is critical that the process moves forward." (Letter To Senators, 6/4/07)

Essential Worker Immigration Coalition: "We believe that comprehensive immigration reform is vital for our economy and our national security. The business community appreciates everyone's effort on this complex and politically sensitive issue. We urge all stakeholders to continue to work together to move S. 1348 forward." (Essential Worker Immigration Coalition, Letter To Senators, 6/7/07)

National Restaurant Association: "Much progress has been made on the bill, and therefore we must not give up now. ... The National Restaurant Association will continue to strongly advocate for workable reform – our economy and national security are depending on it." (National Restaurant Association, Press Release, 6/8/07)

"We Simply Cannot Wait Any Longer For Congress To Address This Issue"

American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman: "Farmers need a comprehensive immigration reform bill approved this Congress. ... We have been pushing for a solution for years and we simply cannot wait any longer for Congress to address this issue." (American Farm Bureau, Press Release, 7/6/07)

Associated Builders And Contractors Chairman David Meyer: "ABC members across the country appreciate the realization on Capitol Hill that the time for comprehensive immigration reform is now and that it must be addressed in the 110th Congress." (Associated Builders And Contractors, Press Release, 5/25/07)

National Milk Producers Federation President And CEO Jerry Kozak: "Increasing numbers of dairy farms throughout this country rely on immigrant labor to help supply ... much-needed workers. Because of this, we need to see Congress pass comprehensive immigration reform this year to finally deal with this pressing issue." (National Milk Producers Federation, Press Release, 6/5/07)

National Pork Producers Council President Jill Appell: "Pork producers need immigration reform so that they have access to a stable work force. ... We need workers in packing plants and on farms, and comprehensive immigration reform can address the pork industry's needs." (National Pork Producers Council, Press Release, 6/7/07)

American Subcontractors Association President Stephen Rohrbach: "The American people understand that there is a fundamental choice to be made between action and inaction – between change and the status quo. ASA agrees with them and with President Bush that comprehensive reform won't happen by itself. The time for Congress to act is now." (The American Subcontractors Association Inc., Press Release, 6/12/07)

"We Must Sustain This Effort At All Costs"

Agriculture Coalition For Immigration Reform: "We were heartened and grateful that S.1348 contains provisions that recognize and address the unique aspects of agricultural production and employment. For these reasons, we are doing everything possible to advance this legislation." (Agriculture Coalition For Immigration Reform, Letter To Sens. Reid And McConnell, 6/12/07)

American Health Care Association President And CEO Bruce Yarwood: "The President and Congress deserve enormous credit for keeping immigration overhaul alive despite the slow, incremental, uphill nature of the legislative situation at hand – but we must sustain this effort at all costs." (American Health Care Association, Press Release, 6/12/07)

Poultry Federation President Marvin Childers: "While this Senate bill is not flawless, it does provide answers to critical problems. ... If we don't act now and then lose the chance to pass legislation in the House, it's possible that we won't have the opportunity to revisit the immigration issue for several more years." ("Business, Ag Groups Support Immigration Legislation," Press Release, Arkansas Farm Bureau, 6/19/07)

Georgia Farm Bureau: "...Georgia Farm Bureau supports immigration reform legislation in the U.S. Senate. ... If legislation fails to pass the Senate, we fear it will be several years before meaningful immigration reform will be seriously reconsidered. In the meantime, we are concerned the farm labor force will shrink, enforcement will increase, and additional state legislation will pass. All of these scenarios do not bode well for farmers who need immigrant labor." (Georgia Farm Bureau, Letter To Sens. Isakson And Chambliss, 6/20/07)

Tyson Foods, Inc.: "As a major employer, we welcome a new and improved employer verification system that captures true identity and only allows those legally authorized to work in the United States to be employed. The addition of a meaningful guest worker program that allows employers to recruit both qualified low skilled and immigrant workers when no U.S. citizens are available will help our future workforce needs." (Tyson Foods, Inc., Letter To Sen. Pryor, 7/6/07)

Western Growers President And CEO Tom Nassif: "It is clear that the last, best chance for immigration reform in the foreseeable future is upon us. If Congress does not move on this critical issue this country will have lost its best opportunity to fix our broken immigration policy for at least several years." (Western Growers, Press Release, 4/20/07)

"The Time To Act Is Now"

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano: "On the subject of immigration, my plea to Congress is loud and clear: You can't quit now. ...[O]ur current system is, effectively, silent amnesty. If we have no comprehensive immigration reform this year, and if we do

not deal rigorously and openly with those already here, silent amnesty will continue." (Janet Napolitano, Op-Ed, "The Myth Of Amnesty," *The Washington Post*, 6/10/07)

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger: "I think it's inexcusable that we have had this system, and that people are fighting from the far right and the far left over this issue, rather than coming together in the center and really coming up with a compromise that works. ... I am very pleased that Congress is working very hard and negotiating so they can solve this issue once and for all." ("Schwarzenegger Calls Bush Courageous For Pushing Immigration Deal," *The Associated Press*, 6/6/07)

National League Of Cities President And Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson: "We applaud the renewed effort now underway to jump-start the immigration compromise agreement. The absence of a functioning federal system has resulted in financial, cultural and political strains in communities across America." (National League Of Cities, Press Release, 6/15/07)

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino: "Many Democrats and Republicans want a fair, responsible, and realistic solution that will strengthen our borders and give pathways to citizenship for people. The time to act is now." (Mayor Thomas Menino, Statement, 6/15/07)

"Inaction Is Not An Option"

MANA President And CEO Alma Morales Riojas: "We are encouraged by bipartisan efforts [on immigration reform] and hope others will take their cues from their colleagues on both sides of the aisle." (MANA, Press Release, 6/18/07)

National Association Of Latino Elected And Appointed Officials: "...[F]ailure or inaction is not an option." (NALEO, Press Release, 6/8/07)

National Council Of La Raza President And CEO Janet Murguía: "This bill contains many promising provisions that are vital to the Latino community and to the nation." (National Council Of La Raza, Press Release, 5/22/07)

U.S. Hispanic Chamber Of Commerce Board Of Directors Chairman David Lizárraga: "We can no longer afford to live under an intolerable system of outdated and dysfunctional immigration laws..." (U.S. Hispanic Chamber Of Commerce, Press Release, 5/17/07)

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society: "HIAS – the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society – welcomes the announcement that President Bush and Senate Republicans and Democrats have come together to deal with the issue of earned legalization for immigrants working and contributing to our society." (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Press Release, 5/21/07)

Esperanza USA President Rev. Luis Cortés: "While this deal is far from perfect, I am hopeful that their proposal could be the platform for the workable, compassionate, comprehensive solution we seek. ... Amnesty is a free pass and a place in the front of the line. This bill is not amnesty." (Nueva Esperanza, Press Release, 5/22/07)