

Lobbying the H-2B Bills (S. 988 and H.R. 1843) after the cap has been met

This is intended to establish talking parameters as a result of the new issues that face H-2B program users.

1. Your personal story will have the most impact to those you want to cosponsor the bills. Tell them why you use the program and how it affects you, your employees, customers, suppliers, and your community financially.
2. Emphasize the facts regarding how the program works and how it protects American workers. Explain how the Department of Labor surveys our industry with questions about what all workers are paid for the same jobs, resulting in set wages for those positions. Let them know how long these workers have been returning to your business.
3. Make sure to mention that the cap September 30 expiration was reached for both halves of the fiscal year 2008.
4. Tell them that legislation to fix this has been passed the last two previous years.
5. You are not obligated to mention the Sanders Bill (and it is a good idea not to bring it up, unless you are asked who is opposing the legislation). You can then mention that it is your understanding that labor unions have a bill they are supporting that has been recently introduced. It contains many provisions that are already covered in the current H-2B program. The other provisions are so onerous that if implemented would cause you not to use the program, due to the consequences (potentially losing your business).
6. Be prepared to tell them what industries or companies use the program in your state or your area of the state. Tell them which legislators are already cosponsoring from your state.
7. If you submitted a newspaper editorial, give them a copy.
8. Ask for help from your state senator, representative, assemblyperson, etc. to call your senators or representative to cosponsor the bills.
9. Follow up with phone calls. Visit your local congressional offices.
10. If you attended visits at PLANET's Legislative Day on the Hill or the September 6, 2007, Fly-In, send e-mails and call those that you had appointments with to let them know the cap has been reached and that the deadline has passed. Now the legislation needs more cosponsors in order to pass.

H-2B Advocacy Checklist

1. Send letters to your senators and member of Congress.
2. Call your senators and member of Congress at (202) 225-3121 and tell them why the H-2B returning-worker exemption is essential to your business.
3. Visit with your elected officials at local events or in their district offices. Bring other area employers, your employees, and your suppliers.

4. Encourage your employees and suppliers to write and call their senators and member of Congress.
5. Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper highlighting the importance of the H-2B program to your business and your community.
6. Contact other users of the H-2B program in your state (ask PLANET for a list) and ask them to do the same things. This year, it will take extra effort on your part to get cosponsors of the legislation and to get it passed.