

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

November 9, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Colleagues:

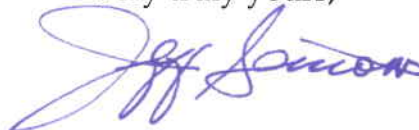
In my capacity as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, I write to respectfully request that you not include in any upcoming appropriations legislation - including any Omnibus legislation - any language that would increase the number of H-2B workers in the United States.

It is my understanding that there are proposals to exempt from the annual cap of 66,000 H-2B visas any aliens who previously held H-2B status in the previous three fiscal years. Thus, in addition to the 66,000 temporary, low-skill workers eligible to come to the United States under the cap established by Congress, it is possible that an additional 198,000 low-skilled workers could be exempt. At a time when the civilian labor force participation rate in the United States is approximately 62.4%, now is not the time to advance legislation further depressing wages and employment for U.S. workers. Pew polling data shows that 83% of the voting public wishes to see the level of immigration frozen or reduced; it is high time Congress respected the will of the American people.

Our immigration system must serve the national interest. Flooding this loose labor market with additional low-skill labor hurts the wages and reduces the job prospects of those who are recent immigrants and native-born who are struggling the most.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Sessions
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Immigration
and the National Interest