



December 21<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
United State Senate  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham,

On behalf of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce we ask for your help securing the state's seasonal workforce through the H2B Visa program. Our most pressing need is the passage of the final fiscal Homeland Security Spending Bill, which includes an H2B package crafted by Senators Tillis and Harris that would:

- Increase the annual H2B cap to 132,000 visas
- Require the Department of Labor to report to Congress every 2 years.
- Provide for the proportional and quarterly allocations of H2B visas, regardless of dates of need
- Preserve access to the program for compliant seasonal employers
- EVerify work eligibility

Several South Carolina companies who depend heavily on seasonal workers have been notified their H2B applications were not approved in the cap applied to the first half of the fiscal year. Others that have an employment beginning date of April 1, 2019, are worried they too will not receive the approval needed to secure their workers.

The state does not have the local workforce needed to support the millions of visitors to South Carolina each year without securing the needed visas. The H2B visa program is a critical component to our state economy, of which tourism makes up over \$21 billion.

Thank you in advance for your help on this issue. Please let me know if we, or any of our chamber partners, can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Pitts".

Ted Pitts  
President and CEO  
SC Chamber of Commerce

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CC: Senator Tim Scott, Congressman Jim Clyburn, Congressman Joe Wilson,  
Congressman Jeff Duncan, Congressman Tom Rice, Congressman Ralph Norman,  
Congressman Joe Cunningham, Congressman William Timmons

