



President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leaders McConnell and McCarthy:

As leaders in the hospitality industry, including restaurants, hotels, and tourist attractions, and members of the bipartisan American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC), we write to urge you to include immigration reform in the budget reconciliation bill. This action is urgently needed to address the nation's labor shortage, which has hit our businesses especially hard. Too many employers in our sector have been forced to hang signs that say, "Closed for the Season Due to Labor Shortage."

There are 11 million jobs open in the U.S., including about one million jobs in our sector.

We are struggling to find workers and are shutting down our businesses or cutting back on hours of operation because we can't find waiters, cooks, housekeepers, managers, and people of all skill levels to hire, despite providing good pay, benefits, bonuses, and other incentives. The holiday season, which usually brings an uptick in business due to

office and family parties, is less merry this year because establishments cannot hire the needed staff, particularly as the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus continues to spread.

The hospitality industry [employs](#) almost 15 million people and relies heavily on talent from the immigrant community. One in three workers in the hotel and accommodation industry are immigrants. One in five food service workers are immigrants. Our sector could not function without these dedicated and critically important immigrant workers.

You have the power to address the labor shortage which contributes to rising inflation by passing the temporary work authorizations and deportation protections included in the House-passed version of the budget reconciliation bill. But temporary solutions are not enough. Our economy needs pathways to citizenship for Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, farmworkers, and essential workers immediately. This will help every American by [adding](#) \$121 billion per year to our economy, including an additional \$31 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

The immigration proposal now pending in the Senate would provide about seven million temporary work permits for immigrants already living in the U.S. This step would be a welcome change that will help us hire the workers we need, but the hospitality industry urges you to further pass a path to permanent legalization and citizenship. Temporary permits offer workers no assurances that they can stabilize their lives and families or grow careers with us over the long term. We need immigrant workers and they need the dignity and stability that only citizenship can provide.

At a time when our nation seems divided, Americans are united in their support for common sense immigration reform. A bipartisan ABIC [poll](#) of battleground voters found 3-to-1 support for including pathways to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the budget reconciliation bill, given their economic contributions. Support was widespread across the political spectrum from Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.

Please remember that immigrants are part of the solution to America's challenges, including the unprecedented labor shortage that is a factor in rising inflation. The time for action is now.

Sincerely,

Mike Kaplan, President and CEO, Aspen Skiing Company, Colorado

Sam Toia, President & CEO, Illinois Restaurant Association

Ben Conniff, Co-Founder & Chief Innovation Officer, Luke's Lobster, Maine

Gregory Dugal, Director of Government Affairs, HospitalityMaine

Clodagh Lawless, Owner, The Dearborn, Illinois

Brian Maggiotto, Owner, Inn at Manchester, Vermont

Anne Marisic, Marketing & Communication, Maine Beer Company

Irayda Flores, Owner, Pescaderia el Puerto de Guaymas, Arizona

James Baron, CEO, MESA SW MANAGEMENT LP, Texas

Sarah Morris, Fifth Generation Host, Basin Harbor, Vermont

Heather Sanborn, Co-Owner, Rising Tide Brewing Company, Maine

Jessica DesVeaux, Owner/Manager, West Street Cafe, Maine

Jim Brady, President, Fathom Companies, Maine

Robert Smith, Proprietor and Lighthouse Keeper, Sebasco Harbor Resort, Maine

Jon Stein, Founder, Fogtown Brewing, Maine

Chris Romer, President & CEO, Vail Valley Partnership, Colorado

Billy Lawless, Founder/Owner, The Gage and The Dearborn, Illinois

Sylvia Lam, Owner and Founder, Decoevento, LLC, Florida

William Fisher, Founder, Austin Street Brewery, Maine

Shannon Allen, CEO, Grown, Florida

Manuel Betancur, CEO/Owner, Manolo's Bakery, North Carolina

Mayra Gallo, Owner, Bonjour Main, South Carolina

Cristina Vernet, Owner, La Casserola, Florida

Dana Street, Founder/Owner, Fore Street, Scales, Street & Co. Restaurants, Maine

Gonzalo Ulivi, CEO, Silverspot Cinema, Florida