



April 2, 2024

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In the wake of the tragedy of the deaths of immigrant workers on the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, we write to you as construction, homebuilder, and business leaders from across our nation. We ask that you extend work permits to the long-term workers in our industry (via Temporary Protected Status and Humanitarian Parole) who are essential to our companies, to the construction industry, and to our nation's economy.

What happened on the bridge is a tragic illustration of the vulnerability of immigrant workers. Fast-acting authorities stopped traffic on the bridge and saved countless lives, but were not able to get the immigrant crew filling potholes off the bridge. One of the victims was [Maynor Suazo Sandoval](#) of Honduras, who is described by his brother as having a true virtue for all things machinery and dreamed of starting a small business. These immigrants from Mexico and Central America were doing essential, dirty, and dangerous work, at night, to support their families.

The sudden and unexpected death of these workers is tragic but sadly, not out of the ordinary. According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), **Latino workers are 8 percent of our construction workforce and suffer over 26 percent of the deaths**. They also have the highest workplace injury rates, according to the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#). Some 130,000 immigrants work in the construction industry in the Baltimore and Washington regions, making up 39 percent of the workforce, according to [CASA](#), a national immigrant and working families advocacy organization.

As construction companies and business leaders, we know that construction cannot function without immigrant workers. We also know that it is a physical, demanding, and sometimes dangerous work. The deaths of the pothole crew stranded on the bridge illustrates that, despite many safeguards, essential construction workers are vulnerable to sudden accidents and deaths.

Many workers in our industry have been here, contributing to our economy for 5, 10, even 20 years without legal status. **By extending work permits to them you will honor the honest labor of Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, Dorlian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, Miguel Luna, Jose Mynor Lopez, and Carlos Hernández, and millions of others.**

You will stabilize our workforce, grow our economy, and address [America's labor shortage](#). We ask you to use your legislated legal authority, through extending **Temporary Protected Status** and **Humanitarian Parole**, to essential workers in our vital construction industry. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Al Cardenas

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