



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

*The Voice For Real Estate®*

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February 9, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Mikulski and Specter:

On behalf of more than 1.2 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), I thank you for your leadership in introducing S. 288, the Save Our Small and Seasonal Business Act of 2009. The bill recognizes the reliability and trustworthiness of past participants in the H-2B program by exempting those temporary seasonal workers who have participated lawfully in the program during the last three years from counting against the H-2B visa cap.

Temporary, seasonal workers are vital to the economies of communities across the country that rely on H-2B labor in to fill seasonal jobs in their hotels, restaurants and ski and beach resorts. When these jobs go unfilled, vital business operations and services are diminished. Without relief from a shortage of available temporary seasonal workers, many of these businesses will be forced to scale back operation leading to a downward cycle of reduced tax revenues and limited local public services which threatens the vitality of communities for tourists, residents and local businesses alike.

Building strong local economies and communities is a top priority for NAR members. NAR appreciates your leadership in providing a solution to the critical labor challenges facing our nation's resort communities and looks forward to working with you to advance this important provision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles McMillan'.

Charles McMillan, CIPS, GRI  
2009 President, National Association of REALTORS®