



Issue Brief



H-2B Reform

February 2020

More H-2B Visas are needed:

- Congress provided authority to the DHS to increase H-2B visas for FY 2020.
- Demand for H-2B visas was greatly exceeded in 2019, and 2020.
- More H-2B visas are needed so employers can hire non-immigrant guest workers in a timely manner.
- Congress must provide a permanent and meaningful cap relief for H-2B visa program as a standalone measure or as part of other relevant legislation.
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- Seasonal workers are key to re-planting forest land and maintaining productive, healthy forests for future generations.

Why FRA Supports H-2B Reform

- Seasonal non-immigrant guestworker reform is a top advocacy priority for FRA members.
- The forest products industry relies heavily on foreign guestworkers to supplement our U.S. workforce to sustain forests and manage vegetation. Because this work is usually seasonal, and because tree planting crews are itinerant without connection to a community, domestic workers are typically not interested in these jobs.
- The Congressionally mandated cap of 66,000 H-2B visas is inadequate to meet the labor needs of seasonal businesses. Currently, demand exceeds the cap of 66,000 visas by two to three times.
- FRA supports FY 2020 appropriations language that provides the DHS with authority to release additional H-2B visas in an efficient and timely manner.
- Congress must provide permanent H-2B cap relief that reflects actual demand and enact reforms that provide certainty for compliant employers.

Request: Support FY2021 appropriations language that provides the DHS with additional authority to release additional H-2B visas in an efficient and timely manner. Support permanent H-2B cap relief as a stand alone measure or part of other relevant immigration legislation.

About FRA

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) represents the interests of nearly 300 organizations and businesses in the forest products industry. Our members include forest landowners, suppliers, consuming mills, associated businesses, and state forestry associations. FRA members are represented in 48 states and 320 Congressional Districts.

FRA's Vision is to be recognized for its diverse membership and commitment to sustaining the success of the forest products industry.

For more information, please contact:

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