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 continue to be in high demand.
- 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.
- Congress must include H-2B cap relief in FY2021 final spending bills.
- Seasonal workers plant more than 85% of the acres planted in the United States each year.

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.
- H-2B forestry workers plant more than 85 percent of the trees on public and private forestland each year, planting more than 1.6 billion trees on an estimated 2.2 million acres, annually.
- H-2B forestry workers will be needed to replant trees on forest lands devastated by wildfires in 2020.
- Every H-2B forestry worker supports and additional 4.5 American jobs and contributes to rural forest dependent communities.
- 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 2021 appropriations language that provides the DHS with authority to release additional H-2B visas.
- 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 the authority to release additional H-2B visas in an efficient and timely manner. Support permanent H-2B cap relief as a standalone 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.

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