



STATEMENT
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CEOs URGE CONGRESS TO ACT

WASHINGTON – Eleven CEOs of brand-name national and regional companies came together today to send a letter to Congress urging lawmakers to act on immigration reform that includes a visa program for less-skilled immigrant workers. ImmigrationWorks president Tamar Jacoby made the following statement.

This letter is an important breakthrough – some of America’s leading companies speaking out. The conventional wisdom is wrong. Immigration reform is not dead in Washington. Influential Republicans are working behind the scenes to create the political climate for a debate in the House – and employers, who know better than anyone how immigrant workers help make America globally competitive, are urging Congress to act.

“Meaningful reform must look beyond today’s unauthorized immigrants,” the CEOs write. “The heart of reform is fixing the legal immigration system so it makes America more competitive in the future, admitting the immigrant workers we need and preventing future illegal immigration.” The letter is signed by the CEOs of Cargill, Coca-Cola, Tyson Foods, McDonald’s, Exelon (chairman emeritus), Loews Hotels, Choice Hotels, CKE Restaurants, Medicalodges, Artis Senior Living and the King of Texas Roofing Company. It was sent to members of the House, Democrat and Republican, and excerpted in a full-page ad in today’s *Politico*.

What makes the letter so significant: it underscores a critical point often left out of the debate. American companies depend on an array of immigrant talent and vitality – knowledge workers and cutting-edge entrepreneurs, but also less-skilled immigrant workers, who fill jobs when there are no willing and able Americans, rounding out the labor force and supporting jobs for U.S. workers.

The economic downturn did nothing to change the fundamental demographic and educational trends that make foreign workers an essential ingredient of American prosperity. In good times and bad, employers in many sectors – agriculture and IT, but also hospitality, food processing, health care and construction, among others – need immigrants to keep their businesses open and contributing to the economy. And as the economy improves, that need is growing – global talent and less-skilled manpower alike are playing an essential role in the nation’s continuing recovery.

The CEOs get it exactly right. “Our broken immigration system is not a problem that can be put off,” their letter concludes. “The stakes could hardly be higher. We need Congress to act.”

Please click [HERE](#) to read the letter.

ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby can be reached for comment at (202) 506-4541.

ImmigrationWorks USA is a national federation of employers working to advance better immigration law. The network links major corporations, national trade associations and 25 state-based coalitions of small to medium-sized business owners concerned that the broken immigration system is holding back the nation’s economic growth. Their shared aim: legislation that brings America’s annual legal intake of foreign workers more realistically into line with the country’s labor needs.