Dear Senator Crapo,

The Idaho Business Coalition for Immigration Reform was formed to provide a voice for Idaho employers on immigration reform.

Reform of the current Immigration system in the United States is desperately needed. The present system doesn’t work for anyone. It doesn’t work for the purpose of securing our country’s borders, it doesn’t work for the U.S. taxpayers and it certainly doesn’t work for employers. Idaho employers need both immigrant workers and foreign guest workers to work along side our current American workers in order to grow our businesses and contribute to both the state and the national economies.

The current economic conditions do not alleviate the need for labor. Many Idaho businesses still find themselves in a labor-shortage situation at different times of the year. As the economy recovers the need to grow and expand our businesses will return. In order to do so, we will need an adequate supply of labor which must include foreign workers. Simply stated there are not enough American workers available for and interested in filling many job positions. It is tempting to think of these positions as unskilled labor (or semi-skilled at best) but the truth of the matter is that in order to remain competitive in the global marketplace employers need the ability to fill job positions at all levels with the best workers available, some of whom may not be Americans.

The Idaho Business Coalition for Immigration Reform would like to see immigration reform include the following:

- Secured Borders
- Effective enforcement of the law
- Surety for businesses hiring foreign workers
- Increased quotas for guest workers
• Increased time frames for guest workers to remain in the U.S.
• Some system that allows for foreign workers who are currently contributing to the U.S. economy to become legitimized in the workplace.

Our members come from a wide variety of Idaho industries and all have need for workers at various skill levels. Businesses from Agriculture to the High-Tech sectors need to have foreign workers available as needed in order to continue to employ Americans. The future of our businesses demand an adequate and appropriate labor supply if we are to thrive in the long term.

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue. We are available to meet with you or your staff at any time to discuss the issue in greater detail.

Respectfully,

J. Brent Olmstead, State Coordinator
Idaho Business Coalition for Immigration Reform

**IBCIR Steering Committee:**

Mark Dunn – JR Simplot Co.
Alex La Beau – IACI
Mark Dunham – AGC
Bob Naerebout – IDA
Dennis Tanikuni - IFBF