

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1805

January 11, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

I am writing today to request that you look into a troubling pattern regarding the issuance of H2A visas to longtime returning seasonal workers. I have heard from several of my farmers who use H2A workers that they are experiencing a troubling disruption in the H2A Visa application process. Namely, that longtime workers with a proven history of successfully being granted and lawfully using H2A visas to provide seasonal labor, are suddenly and inexplicably being refused. Accordingly, I request that you work with my office to determine whether there has been a change in either policy or procedure regarding the issuance of H2A visas, particularly to longtime participants in the H2A program who have a proven history of following the rules.

There is no doubt that we as a Nation are facing unprecedented challenges with illegal immigration and a failure to come together to commit the resources necessary to secure our borders. This in spite of the fact that the United States has a robust framework in place to welcome both seasonal workers as well as those wishing to stay and become American citizens. Agriculture is a life blood of Louisiana, and relies on seasonal agricultural workers - those who have respected our laws and played by the rules - to continue to provide the Nation and the world with safe, reliable and nutritious food.

Sincerely,



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress