



February 8, 2022

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: H-2B Visas Release

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Currently, Senators King and Rounds are circulating a letter for signature by colleagues that requests DHS exercise its authority to release the 44,617 (full number) H-2B visas it is authorized to release and to compel DOL to speed up its H-2B processing. I am writing to ask you to add your support by signing their letter.

Access to H-2B visas is crucial to businesses across Minnesota. Given the importance of the tourism and hospitality industry here, we urge you, Senator Klobuchar, to add your signature so that our businesses can bring on an adequate level of staffing to fully open for the summer season.

Please join the following Senators who have already committed their support through signature:

Democrats

Bennet (CO), Carper (DE), Coons (DE), Hickenlooper (CO), Kaine (VA), King (ME), Manchin (WV), Menendez (NJ), Shaheen (NH), Warnock (GA) and Warner (VA)

Republicans

Collins (ME), Cornyn (TX), Crapo (ID), Barrasso (WY), Graham (SC), Lummis (WY), Portman (OH), Risch (ID), Rounds (SD) and Wicker (MS)

Even if DHS releases the full number of visas it is authorized to, it will not be enough to satisfy the demand. DOL received requests for over 136,000 worker positions for the

second half allotment of 33,000 H-2B visas. There are over 100,000 positions requested in excess of the cap! As you are aware, our businesses are dealing with the worst workforce shortage in a generation and H-2B workers provide the best opportunity to help alleviate some of the labor challenges, especially during the peak summer travel season in Minnesota.

Your signature on this letter would be greatly appreciated. Anything you can do to help secure significant H-2B cap relief in the upcoming spending, including working with Senators Graham, Manchin and Coons to include either a Returning Worker Exemption or S. 2443 in the upcoming spending bill, will improve conditions for our businesses to operate.

The tight labor situation is the key barrier to full recovery. Right now, many of our hospitality member businesses are making budgeting and hiring decisions for the upcoming summer season. Absent an H-2B fix, this will be another difficult summer for hotels, resorts and restaurants who will be forced to operate short-handed and curtail some offerings and services. Doing so will have significant financial ramifications for operators and will further slow the economic recovery this industry needs.

Your continued advocacy for this industry, including support on this issue, will go a long way in helping to bring relief to Minnesota's hospitality and tourism businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Rammer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" being more prominent than the last name "Rammer".

Liz Rammer
President & CEO