May 17, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta

Secretary Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Department of Labor

3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW 200 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20528 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Secretary Nielsen and Secretary Acosta:

As a golf course superintendent and a *[ ]* year member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, I urge you to immediately resume processing H-2B visas up to the full number of visas authorized by the Fiscal 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Without immediate action, many employers and small businesses such as mine will be without the critical workforce they need to operate this spring and summer. Many golf facilities may not be able to complete renovation projects or simply conduct routine golf course maintenance. They could be forced to turn away customers, lay off American workers whose jobs are supported by H-2B workers, and in some cases shut down their facilities entirely.

*[ if you are an H-2B employer, describe your personal story and use of the H-2B program here ]*

In a strong economy with record-low unemployment, the program’s arbitrary cap of 66,000 visas established in 1992 is inadequate to meet the bona fide seasonal labor needs of many businesses.

It is clear that without immediate action by DHS and DOL, nearly 70% of seasonal positions for the second half of fiscal 2018 will go unfulfilled due to cap limitations. The lack of H-2B workers jeopardizes the survival of seasonal businesses, including many in the golf industry, and puts their American workers at risk of losing their jobs.

The H-2B program relies on well-vetted returning workers who come to the U.S. for seasonal employment and then go home. These workers are not immigrants. They provide an opportunity for U.S. businesses to operate at a greater capacity, retain their full-time workers and contribute to their local economies. Seasonal workers help support many upstream and downstream jobs. Every H-2B worker is estimated to create and sustain 4.64 American jobs.

Relief for seasonal businesses that use the H-2B program is desperately needed. We urge you to immediately resume processing H-2B visa petitions up to the full number of H-2B visas authorized by the Fiscal 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Sincerely,

*[ your name ]*

*[ your title ]*

*[ your facility (optional)]*