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**MORE THAN 100 BUSINESS LEADERS SIGN ONTO COUNCIL LETTER URGING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO ADDRESS THE WORK PERMIT BACKLOG**

American Immigration Council  
October 25, 2024

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 25, 2024 — Today, the American Immigration Council joins over 100 business organizations, including chambers of commerce and trade associations throughout the country, to call on the Biden administration to address the work permit backlogs. The letter urges the Biden administration to prioritize the processing of initial and renewal work permit applications.

According to Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, “a big part of the story of the labor market coming back into better balance is immigration returning to levels that were more typical of the pre-pandemic era.” Increased numbers of immigrant workers have helped stave off a recession and boost the economy, with the U.S. outperforming its peers around the world as economies recovered post-pandemic. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that increased immigration will swell the U.S. economy by \$7 trillion over the next decade and reduce the U.S. national debt by \$900 billion — an undeniable testament to the importance of the immigrant workforce for our collective livelihood.

This letter was organized in partnership with the Refugee Advocacy Lab and was released alongside a growing movement across the country led by groups including the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project and the American Immigration Lawyers Association, calling for administrative solutions to address the work permit backlog.

**The following is a statement from Rich André, director of State and Local Initiatives at the American Immigration Council:**

“Communities across the country need workers to fill jobs and support local economies. Swift action is necessary to address the work permit backlog, which hinders economic growth and prevents businesses from accessing the talent they need. Immigrant workers are essential to filling critical labor needs and shortages across the country; reducing work permit backlogs will ensure that immigrants can contribute to our economy without unnecessary delays, strengthening the U.S. workforce and promoting long-term economic resilience.”

**The following is a statement from Kate Brick, executive director of the Refugee Advocacy Lab:**

“With labor shortages across critical industries in

communities nationwide, and more than a million people who are waiting to be able to work and provide for their families, we urge the administration to do everything in its power to reduce the backlog in work permit processing. As the 100+ business groups from across the country can attest, the longer it takes, the more missed opportunity there is to maximize the talent of people who want to work and contribute to the vitality of their local economies.”

**The following is a statement from Conchita Cruz, co-executive director at the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP), a membership organization of over 600,000 asylum seekers:**

“Immigrants are employed as healthcare providers, truck drivers, teachers, construction workers and more, and they want to be able to continue to work and contribute to their communities in the United States. Our members are an integral part of the U.S. labor force and have already been affected by work permit processing delays, forcing their employers to put them on leave and to scramble to cover their critical work. The U.S. government must focus on eliminating the work permit backlog — for the sake of immigrants and the communities that depend on them.”

**The following is a statement from Misty Chally, executive director of the Critical Labor Coalition:**

“If every unemployed person today found a job, there would still be 1.24 million open jobs. Concurrently, there are over 1 million work permit applications waiting to be processed. There are people in this country wanting to work while employers are searching for employees. Let’s use common sense, put politics aside and help solve the labor shortage by addressing the work permit backlog.”

**The following is a statement from Justin Yancy, president of the Texas Business Leadership Council:**

“Every day, I hear from business leaders across Texas about their urgent need for workers, with over 800,000 open jobs in the state. The long wait times for work permits are preventing businesses from accessing a willing workforce. By addressing the backlog, we can help fill critical positions in industries like healthcare and manufacturing and strengthen our workforce—a win for Texas businesses and communities across the state.”

**Letter signatories include:**

- Access Community Care
- ADC Immigration Law, LLC
- American Business Immigration Coalition
- American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado
- AM Legal Documents Corp.
- Ann Arbor SPARK
- Apfel Law Group



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Associated General Contractors of Maine  
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Borderplex Alliance  
Boundless Immigration  
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance  
Cifuentes Escalona Garces Law  
Colorado Business Roundtable  
Columbia Group LLLP  
Columbus (OH) Chamber of Commerce  
Convergent Science, Inc.  
Copper Mountain Resort  
Cozen O'Connor  
Critical Labor Coalition  
Dallas Regional Chamber  
Eastern Floral  
El Paso Chamber  
El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Fort Bend Chamber  
Feyen Zylstra  
Frey Immigration Law Firm PLLC  
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Grace Management Group LLC  
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Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Houston LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce  
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Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Omaha Chamber  
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Jan Joseph Bejar, APLC  
Joseph M Rollo and Associates PC  
Just Right Strategy  
Kleiman International Consultants  
Kobi's Place  
Ky-Win LLC  
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce  
Language Equity & Access Partners (LEAP)  
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Law Office of Angelique Montano PLLC  
Law Office of Christine Contreras  
Law Office of Megan Guzman  
Law Office of Muna Jondy  
Law Office of Ralf D. Wiedemann LLC  
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Longview TX Chamber of Commerce  
Luke's Lobster  
Matrix Law  
Michigan Works! Association  
Miller Johnson  
Mixed Staffing and Recruiting  
Mokhiber & Moretti PLLC  
Nixon Peabody LLP  
Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance  
North Texas Commission  
OBG Center  
Ohio African Chamber of Commerce  
Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association  
Ohio Life Sciences Association  
Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber  
Pro 15  
Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida  
Regionomics LLC  
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce  
Retail Association of Maine  
Saev Hernandez Immigration Practice PLLC  
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Seaport Law Group LLP  
Seth C. Addo-Yobo, Attorney At Law  
Small Business Association of Michigan  
Small Business Majority  
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Tailwind Immigration Law, LLC  
Takhsh Law, P.C.  
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Teresa Salazar-Cosmos, Law Office  
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