

RAND PAUL, M.D. • KENTUCKY

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167 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC 20510



## STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR U.S. SENATOR RAND PAUL'S *PAPERWORK REDUCTION FOR FARMERS AND H-2A MODERNIZATION ACT*

### **Jennifer Houston, President of National Cattlemen's Beef Association**

"NCBA supports efforts by Senator Paul to help the agriculture community deal with ongoing labor shortages. A reliable workforce is a critical aspect of cattle and beef operations across the country. Added flexibility and improved immigration procedures will help keep rural businesses running strong."

### **Eric Hamelback, CEO of the National Horsemen's Benevolent Protection Association**

"Many industries, including the horse racing industry, have dealt with the difficulties of the guest worker programs for far too long. A comprehensive approach is long overdue. I am confident that Senator Rand Paul's (R-KY) Paperwork Reduction for Farmers and H-2A Modernization Act will be a program that can offer solutions for employers trying to secure the workers they need. The National HBPA applauds Senator Paul for taking the lead in working on solutions for this issue."

### **Gray Delaney, Executive Director for the Seasonal Employment Alliance**

"I speak on behalf of our 2,000+ members in the landscaping, hospitality, reforestation, seafood, outdoor amusement and equine industries in thanking Senator Paul for introducing the Paperwork Reduction for Farmers and H-2A Modernization Act and for your work on the bill. By allowing the landscaping, equine, forestry and seafood industries to use the H-2A program would likely alleviate the issues employers have with the insufficient number of H-2B visas."

### **Andrew Bray, VP Government Relations for the National Association of Landscape Professionals**

"The National Association of Landscape Professionals appreciates Senator's Paul's leadership by introducing the , the Act makes significant efforts to alleviate the strain on seasonal employment by creating new access to the H-2A program for industries that have traditionally been relegated to the capped H-2B program, including the landscape industry. This new access into the H-2A program should alleviate the tremendous strain of available visas for seasonal employers within the capped H-2B program. We look forward to working with Senator Paul and other Senators to continue to support the and to continue to pursue significant reforms to the H-2B program and to fix the arbitrary cap for seasonal employment that is crippling seasonal employers and suppressing continued economic growth within seasonal businesses."

### **Ben Colebrook, Kentucky Thoroughbred Trainer**

"The inclusion of equine Thoroughbred race track workers in the H-2A program would be extremely beneficial to our specific industry. For decades we've been aware that there is a shortage of temporary, supplemental labor available for non-farm animal caretaker jobs in the Thoroughbred industry. We obviously would prefer to employ American workers. We do not enjoy the expense of utilizing our current system, which is the H-2B visa system. We pay massive legal fees and costs associated with the program and the H-B visa program at present is a capped program forcing trainers to basically play Russian roulette each year. We never know if we will be capped out or not. The stress of the cap is unbearable. Industry wide, we have always attempted to attract American workers using newspaper and on-line advertisements, word-of-mouth and all industry resources. Unfortunately, we remain year after year unable to hire the number of supplemental staff required for our operations to remain in business. Therefore, it is critical that thoroughbred horse workers be included in an uncapped program such as the H-2A program. Our industry supports feed businesses, veterinarians, blacksmiths, horse transportation companies, etc and if we cannot continue our operations or have to scale back our operations dramatically because of our industry reliance on a capped visa program, the trickle down effect is massive and directly impacts individual state and federal commerce."