



H-2B Reform

March 2019

More H-2B Visas Are Needed:

- Congress has provided authority to the DHS to increase the H-2B visa cap by an additional 69,320 visas to a total of 135,320 visas
- The H-2B cap has been reached for FY2019
- Additional H-2B visas are critical to the forest products industry for re-planting trees on forestland
- More visas are needed so that seasonal employers can hire employees important to the success of their business
- Keeps the wood supply chain competitive

Why FRA Supports H-2B Reform

- Seasonal guestworker reform is a top advocacy priority for FRA members.
- The forest products industry relies heavily on foreign guestworkers to supplement our U.S. workforce to sustain forests and manage vegetation. Because this work is usually seasonal, and because tree planting crews are itinerant without connection to a community, domestic workers are typically not interested in these jobs.
- The final combined appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019, which includes funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), included discretionary language which gives the DHS authority in consultation with the Department of Labor to increase the H-2B visa cap for FY2019 from 66,000 to 135,320.
- The Congressionally mandated cap of 66,000 H-2B visas is inadequate to meet the labor needs of seasonal businesses.
- The current cap of 66,000 has already been reached for FY2019.
- FRA, the H-2B Coalition, and Members of the House and Senate have urged the Secretary of the DHS to release the remaining 69,320 H-2B visas to meet current demand immediately. The Secretary has the authority to release the visas without undertaking a time-consuming rulemaking process.

Request: The Department of Homeland Security make available the remaining 69,320 H-2B guestworker visas for FY2019, immediately.

About FRA

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) represents the interests of nearly 300 organizations and businesses in the forest products industry. Our members include forest landowners, suppliers, consuming mills, associated businesses, and state forestry associations.

The mission of FRA is to promote the interests of forest products industry members in the economic, efficient, and sustainable use of forest resources in order to meet the needs of the wood fiber supply chain through private enterprise. FRA members are represented in 49 states and 320 Congressional Districts.

For more information, please contact:

Deb Hawkinson, FRA President, 202-296-3937

Tim O'Hara, FRA Government Affairs and Lake States Manager, 218-390-7965