



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS**

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EDWIN D. HILL
International President

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Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 725,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to urge you to oppose S. 1348, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007. If passed, S. 1348 will exacerbate the unconscionable exploitation of immigrant workers in the United States thereby accelerating a further erosion of the American middle-class.

Especially troubling with this legislation is the establishment of a new temporary guest worker program that contains no meaningful wage floor. This new scheme is a model of the old Bracero-type guest worker program that will force workers to toil in truly temporary status with a high risk of exploitation and abuse by those seeking only cheap labor. Such a program will place huge downward pressure on wages and working conditions for **all** American workers. The exploitation of these temporary workers will systematically destroy what is a viable path to a middle-class life style for millions of Americans.

In addition to attacking the American middle-class, this legislation would, for the first time in over 40 years, deviate from the long-held American value that anyone who arrives on our shores **legally** be afforded a path to citizenship.

The proponents of S. 1348 argue this legislation is needed because there are jobs Americans will not do. Don't be fooled. Americans have never been afraid of hard work but they hold dear the concept of a day's work for a day's wages. What Americans will not do, nor should they be expected to do, is work for slave wages. Americans have earned a middle-class life style and Congress should be working to protect it, not take it away.

In considering legislation to fix America's broken immigration system, Congress should first do no harm. Unfortunately, S. 1348 will exploit immigrant workers and place downward pressure on the wages and working conditions of American workers. I respectfully request that you oppose S. 1348 when the Senate resumes its debate over this misguided legislation following the Memorial Day recess.

Sincerely,

Edwin D. Hill
International President

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