

June 18, 2007



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS**

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EDWIN D. HILL
International President

JON F. WALTERS
International Secretary-Treasurer



**Addressed Individually
to the
U.S. Senate**

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Bldg., Rm. SH-141
Washington, DC 20510-1103

Dear Senator Akaka:

On behalf of the approximately 725,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to continue my strong opposition to S. 1348, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007. The issue of immigration reform is complex and defies solving in one sweeping piece of legislation. S. 1348 undermines the values by which the vast majority of Americans have lived and worked all their lives.

Any immigration reform effort must first do no harm. Working families will judge this legislation by the impact it has on their jobs and economic future. Unfortunately, in those very few times the Senate has discussed the interests of average Americans regarding immigration, many have chosen to repeat the time-worn myth, "There are jobs Americans will not do."

S. 1348 is described by its supporters as a pathway to legalization for millions of undocumented aliens currently in the U.S. It remains coupled with modifications to the existing guest worker program that is being pushed by business and industry lobbyists. As currently drafted, both provisions will cause a weakening of the economic rights and well-being for **all** workers in America.

Just like the failed Bracero program of the 1940s and '50s, the entire guest worker provisions of S. 1348 will inevitably play into the hands of unscrupulous employers who seek to use temporary guest workers to drive down wages and working conditions for **all** workers.

Particularly in the construction industry, it is now common practice for employers such as Halliburton; Kellogg, Brown, and Root; and Fluor/Daniels to move workers from the Philippines, Pakistan, and Eastern Europe around the globe like indentured servants. If given the opportunity, this is how they will utilize a temporary guest worker program in the United States – as a tool to drive-down wages and working conditions.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to defeat this poorly conceived immigration reform effort. I specifically request you to oppose cloture and, if necessary, oppose final passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin Hill", written in a cursive style.

Edwin D. Hill
International President

EDH:pr