



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS.**

900 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202.833.7000
<http://www.ibew.org>

EDWIN D. HILL
International President

LINDELL K. LEE
International
Secretary-Treasurer

June 20, 2013

United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the approximately 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I urge you to support amendments to the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013* (S. 744) that would provide greater protections for American workers.

Unfortunately, during the Senate Judiciary Committee mark-up of S. 744, amendments to the high-skilled (H-1B) guest worker visa program were passed that would cause economic harm to American workers. As the full Senate debates immigration reform legislation, I ask for your support of amendments that would increase protections for workers impacted by high-skilled (H-1B) as well as low-skilled (H-2B) visa holders.

The IBEW supports amendments that would:

1. Increase wages for **all** guest workers, so that employers would lose the incentive to hire cheaper foreign labor.
2. Require employers, in a meaningful way, to first offer jobs to American workers who are equally or better qualified than the temporary worker sought.
3. Hold the cap for H-1B guest workers at its present level of 65,000 issued per year.
4. Limit the availability of visas for all guest worker programs if the United States economy is not at full employment.

Regardless of whether foreign workers in the United States are undocumented or in the U.S. on temporary visas, these workers are being exploited. The United States business community is pleased to have access to this large pool of fearful labor willing



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

United States Senate
June 20, 2013
Page 2

to work for substandard wages, for which it has largely ignored wage, hour, safety, and tax laws. As immigration reform is debated on the floor of the Senate, particularly during this time of high unemployment, I urge you to support amendments that increase protections for American workers.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Edwin D. Hill".

Edwin D. Hill
International President

EDH:lgd
Opeiu#2