

May 13, 2013

Dear Senator:

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) has long supported enactment of comprehensive immigration reform to help stabilize and grow the U.S. economy. ARTBA's goals for this long-overdue legislation include establishment of an expanded visa program for all classes of future foreign workers, and an efficient and dependable employment verification system for U.S. employers.

The U.S. transportation design and construction industry consists of a diverse workforce with a wide range of backgrounds and skills. Occupations within our industry range from finance specialists to architects and engineers to operators of sophisticated equipment to laborers. As such, the workforce demands of our sector are extremely dynamic and our member firms are often challenged to not only find the right employee, but the right number of employees.

To that end, we commend the bipartisan effort of Senators to develop S. 744, "The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act," which addresses a number of our immigration reform priorities. As this process moves forward, we urge Senators to support modifications to the current measure to ensure the construction industry is able to fully participate in the proposed W-Visa Program. The construction industry, like all other sectors, should be allowed to pursue any new available temporary visas to the maximum extent market forces can support and not be singled out by arbitrary limitations.

Existing U.S. immigration laws continue to impede the nation's businesses and overall productivity. We are pleased the Senate has initiated a meaningful process to reform this broken system.

Sincerely,



T. Peter Ruane
President & CEO