



January 27, 2014

The Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator for Colorado
458 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

In the fall of 2012, the Chamber Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting the Colorado Compact, an effort to convene and promote a bipartisan conversation on immigration. This resolution expressed the Chamber's recognition that immigration policies must be addressed at the federal level and that immigration policy must be guided by the economic needs of our region and country.

I am writing to reaffirm the Chamber's support and commitment to immigration reform in light of recent activity in Congress on this issue. We urge both houses and both parties to work together and not lose this opportunity to move our country and our state forward on this issue. Immigration issues continue to challenge our economic vitality in Colorado, making this issue critical to the success of our state.

While we recognize there are differences between the approach of both Senate and House leadership, we urge you to work to achieve reforms that will address our critical interests.

1. The critical business need for an educated work force.

We need an expedited road to citizenship for those who entered the U.S. before the age of 16, graduated from high school or received a GED and attended at least two years of college or served four years in the military. These students have valuable and necessary skills we need in our work force and should be given a path to citizenship.

2. The need for additional highly skilled workers, such as scientists and researchers.

Currently, there is a shortage of H-1B visas, which has a negative impact on attracting and retaining highly skilled foreign national professionals. Many of Colorado's industry clusters, such as aerospace, bioscience, energy and health care, rely on these specialized experts.

3. The need for key industries in Colorado to be able to access short-term workers.

Some of Colorado's top economic sectors (agriculture, construction and recreation) struggle to get the workers they need through the temporary visas currently available.

4. Addresses an E-Verify system with safe harbor provisions for employers.

Any reform that requires businesses use a new E-Verify system must contain a safe harbor provision.

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5. Addresses border security.

We continue to support border security as an important component, but one that we recognize takes time to effectively implement. We hope, though, that border security is not a precedent to addressing the other important components to immigration reform.

We are hopeful you can find the right path forward to our country and we support your efforts that are consistent with our principles.

Best regards,



Kelly Brough
President and CEO
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce



Donna Lynn
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce