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September 24, 2013

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Room 5110 MS 2000
Washington, DC 20529-2000

Dear Director Mayorkas:

Thank you for the notice I received today from your agency of upcoming publication of the Fiscal Year 2014 numerical limit for the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker (CW) classification. The decision to set the limit at 14,000, a reduction of 6.7 percent from fiscal 2013, balances the requirement of Public Law 110-229 to reduce the Northern Mariana Islands' dependence on foreign labor with a recognition that our improving economy may still need additional workers.

The ultimate goal, however, remains putting U.S. workers into jobs in the Northern Marianas. Shortly after announcement of the fiscal year 2013 limit last year, USCIS District Director David Gulick announced renewed efforts to insure that employers meet the requirement to hire U.S. workers, when qualified. A dedicated e-mail address had been established, he said, for submission of complaints of employers who had bypassed U.S. workers in favor of CW workers. Employers were warned that violations of this U.S. worker hire requirement could result in revocation of all CW petitions and closer review of future petitions.

Now, I would respectfully request the results of these efforts by USCIS. Specifically, I would like to know the number of complaints that have been received, the number of complaints investigated, the number of employers found at fault, and what action may have been taken against them. I would also request an evaluation of the effectiveness of these current measures and your assessment of additional steps that may be needed to ensure employer compliance. I would also appreciate any suggestions you may have for legislative action that Congress could take to further the goal of prioritizing the hiring of qualified U.S. workers.

Taking action to protect U.S. workers is especially critical now, as the Secretary of Labor deliberates on whether or not to extend the CW program beyond December 31, 2014. The grant of an extension should not be an excuse to reduce efforts to assure that qualified U.S. workers are hired or to relax our commitment to providing U.S. workers with any additional training they may need to meet job qualifications.

As always, thank you for the consideration that you and your staff have consistently shown to the people I represent.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress