

TWIN  PINES
LANDSCAPING

650 E. Big Beaver #F
Troy, MI 48083
Office: 248-524-3244
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The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 1:23 pm, Feb 23, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I am writing to ask you to implement whatever is needed to release the additional 20,000 H-2B visas which Congress has granted you in PL 117-70.

- I started my company when I was in high school, starting small and expanding with a lot of hard work and long hours. www.twinpineslandscaping.com
- My company has a small staff of year-around workers which we employ.
- We spend \$5,000+ yearly on advertising to find seasonable and year-round workers.
- We place flyers in various places seeking employees and use word-of-mouth.
- We hire all local workers who apply. However, they are not reliable—show up late for work, don't show up at all and most only work for a few days and quit.
- We have used H-2B workers since 2016. We receive many compliments from our customers as to their hard work, courtesy and professionalism. Many of these workers come back year-after-year.
- As a business owner, I contribute to many other areas of the economy by purchasing large and small equipment, vehicles for their transportation and uniforms (including boots and coats).
- We urge you to support HB3897 the H-2B Returning Workers Exception Act.
- We **urgently need the H-2B** workers which we have requested. Please act swiftly.

Yours truly,



Daniel D. MacLeish II



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

March 10, 2022

Daniel D. MacLeish II
Twin Pines Landscaping
650 E. Big Beaver #F
Troy, MI 48083

Dear Mr. MacLeish:

Thank you for your February 23, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) urging the release of additional H-2B visas. Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf. In your letter, you emphasize the importance of the H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker program to your business.

DHS appreciates the concerns you raised regarding the challenges faced by business owners like you and the need to make additional H-2B nonimmigrant visas available in the second half of FY 2022. DHS will endeavor to ensure American businesses are equipped with the resources needed to contribute to the economic health of local communities.

On December 20, 2021, DHS announced a supplemental increase of 20,000 visas for the H-2B program for U.S. employers seeking to employ additional workers on or before March 31, 2022. As in prior years, DHS consulted with DOL to ensure that the supplemental increase does not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers. These additional visas are now available, as set forth in the temporary final rule¹ that was published in the *Federal Register* on January 28, 2022. DHS will assess, in consultation with DOL, whether there is the need to make additional H-2B visas available and make the appropriate determination should Congress elect to extend this authority.

Please note that while the congressionally mandated H-2B cap for the second half of fiscal year 2022 was reached on February 25, 2022, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services continues to accept H-2B petitions that are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. These include petitions for current H-2B workers in the United States who wish to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or their employers.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director

¹ 87 Fed. Reg. 4722 (Jan. 28, 2022), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/01/28/2022-01866/exercise-of-time-limited-authority-to-increase-the-fiscal-year-2022-numerical-limitation-for-the>.