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STATE OF ARKANSAS

ASA HUTCHINSON  
GOVERNOR

June 9, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I want to thank you for your leadership in handling the public health and economic crisis created by COVID-19. I am writing to express my hope that if a second presidential Executive Order is issued in the coming weeks on the topic of non-immigration visas (including H-1B visas), that an explicit "carve out" be included for all workers who have been deemed essential under the guidance provided to states and US territories by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Such a carve out is important for businesses in Arkansas and is vital to getting America back to work.

While a carve out for high-skilled healthcare and agricultural workers who seek to come to this country on an H-1B is welcome, it does not go far enough. Such an exemption would preclude the entry of high-skilled IT workers who support the work of the healthcare and agricultural sectors.

Legal analysts note that the Executive Order issued by you on April 22, 2020, itself exempts essential workers who are helping to alleviate the effects of COVID-19, language that can—and in my view, should—be read broadly to include keeping the economy running and growing as states reopen. My hope is that if there is a subsequent presidential executive order issued on the topic, that order will make this interpretation explicit to help ensure the nation's recovery from the economic harm of the pandemic is as swift and pronounced as possible.

I am attaching a letter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce expressing the business community's support for these non-immigrant visas, as well as another letter from over 300 companies and 65 associations asking that these programs be left untouched by a potential second executive order limiting immigration. Finally, the letter

attached is signed by nine Senate Republicans that make the case for our request, which is that if you find the programs must be altered, please exempt all essential workers under CISA guidance from any executive order limiting non-immigrant visas, including H-1Bs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I appreciate your service during this critical time.

Sincerely,  
  
Asa Hutchinson

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**NEIL L. BRADLEY**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &  
CHIEF POLICY OFFICER

1615 H STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20062  
(202) 463-5310

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Larry Kudlow  
Director  
National Economic Council  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Jared Kushner  
Senior Advisor to the President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Kudlow and Mr. Kushner:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce commends the administration for your efforts to ensure that businesses have all the tools necessary for a strong recovery that will return millions of Americans back to work. Just as supportive tax and regulatory policy and access to credit are essential for a return to growth, so is access to talent. That is why the Chamber is concerned about the possible expansion of the President's April 22<sup>nd</sup> proclamation on immigration.

Legal immigrant workers are a key contributor to U.S. economic growth. While the negative economic impact of the pandemic has certainly been severe, it has varying effects on different sectors of the economy. For example, a recent [report](#) issued by the National Foundation of American Policy shows that the unemployment rate for workers employed in Computer Occupations — a sector that has historically relied upon the contributions of legal immigrant and temporary nonimmigrant workers — was actually lower last month than it was in January.

There are many other sectors of our economy that rely upon the contribution of foreign nationals working in the United States. Businesses across industries are very concerned about the potential disruptions that will be caused if they can no longer employ valued employees that work here under the following visa classifications: H-1B, L-1, H-4, F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT), and H-2B. Similarly, companies that rely upon investment dollars from the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program are concerned about restrictions being imposed upon those individuals that have invested in their businesses. Shutting these individuals out of the chance to contribute to an economic recovery is misguided for a host of reasons:

- H-1B specialty occupation workers are critical for companies in the innovation sectors. An [article](#) by the CATO Institute highlights the benefits that these workers provide on patent production, and the prospects for reduced American innovation and productivity growth if these workers are shut out of employment. Another CATO [study](#) shows that virtually all H-1B employers pay their H-1B workers at least the prevailing market wage, with the vast majority of H-1B employers paying these workers about 20% higher than the average market wage.
- Multinational companies often utilize the L-1 program to move senior executives, key managers, and specialized knowledge employees into the U.S. to jumpstart new

product lines, research initiatives, and business divisions. Bans imposed upon these workers would make the U.S. a less compelling location for foreign investment.

- The Optional Practical Training program provides a critical link for international students that have graduated from American colleges and universities to remain in the U.S. and to receive training at an American employer post-graduation. A 2018 [National Foundation for American Policy](#) brief indicates that 22% of America's billion-dollar start-ups had at least one immigrant founder that came to the U.S. as a student. Eliminating this critical talent pipeline for American businesses would negatively impact future innovation and economic growth.
- The H-4 spousal work authorization program is a very small but critical tool that helps various businesses retain their top talent as they wait for their H-1B workers to obtain their green cards. A recent [analysis](#) estimating the impact of eliminating this program detailed a potential \$7.5 billion hit to annual GDP and a likely reduction in overall employment and wages for American workers.
- While we appreciate the Administration's recently enacted temporary measures to aid H-2B employers in industries that are essential to the food supply chain, many other sectors rely on H-2B workers, including forestry and landscaping firms. Many of those firms, for example, perform essential tasks along utility corridors. Preventing companies in these seasonal industries from meeting their critical workforce needs will inhibit their ability to carry out their essential functions during this crucial period.
- The EB-5 Immigrant Investor Visa Program is a powerful tool to create jobs in the U.S. This program allows eligible foreign nationals to go through a multi-step process to obtain a green card if they make sizable investment in a U.S. business that creates at least 10 jobs for American workers. This program should be reformed and modernized, but eliminating this potential source of business investment during the pandemic recovery would be counterproductive to broader economic recovery efforts.

In short, expanding the April 22 proclamation to categorically ban companies from utilizing these immigrant and temporary nonimmigrant visa programs would substantially limit the ability of many companies to help get the American economy moving again. In turn, that would negatively impact the millions of Americans who are counting on a swift economic recovery to return to work themselves.

Thank you again for your many efforts to support a strong economic recovery. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil L. Bradley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil L. Bradley

May 21, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Secretary Michael Pompeo  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Secretary Eugene Scalia  
Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Acting Secretary Chad Wolf  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. President and Honorable Secretaries,

The undersigned organizations, speaking for a variety of sectors and geographies across the American economy, and small, medium, and large employers, are writing about the importance of the high-skilled workforce to America's economic recovery. In particular, the undersigned represent employers that rely on a highly skilled, college-educated, science and engineering workforce, including nonimmigrant professionals, to innovate, produce, research, develop, and lead. At this critical juncture in our nation's history, the ability to continue to do so is in the national interest.

We urge you to avoid outcomes, even for temporary periods, that restrict employment-authorization terms, conditions, or processing of L-1, H-1B, F-1, or H-4 nonimmigrants. Constraints on our human capital are likely to result in unintended consequences and may cause substantial economic uncertainty if we have to recalibrate our personnel based on country of birth.

We join you in your continued commitment to protect the health and economic well-being of Americans, and hope our attached Appendix is helpful as you consider weighty judgments on how to navigate this important moment.

Respectfully submitted,

324 employers and trade, industry, and higher education associations and groups across the American economy focused on the high-skilled workforce (signatory list follows Appendix)

## APPENDIX

### Importance to the nation of the STEM workforce and avoiding artificial constraints to this workforce

#### IMPORTANCE OF THE COLLEGE-EDUCATED STEM WORKFORCE, INCLUDING NONIMMIGRANTS

**STEM Jobs.** It has been well-understood in the post-World War II era that the STEM workforce is of particular interest to all developed economies because of its central role in fostering innovation, economic competitiveness, and national security. The centrality of the STEM workforce across the American economy is evidenced by the fact that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Americans with university STEM degrees are called upon to use their quantitative skills in finance, public administration, professional services, manufacturing, information, education, health care, transportation, and retail, in addition to high-tech, as the [Census Bureau has explained](#). However, over the years, computer-related professional job openings have outstripped the availability of qualified Americans to fill those positions. For this reason, the [Department of Homeland Security reports that 66% of all H-1B approvals are in computer-related occupations](#) and, correspondingly, the [Department of Labor reports that 60% of Permanent Labor Certifications approved to sponsor new green card holders are in the computer and mathematical occupations](#), with most such labor certifications filed on behalf of H-1B visa holders. Importantly, when Department of Labor wage data on H-1B workers is compiled, as the [Cato Institute did for a May 2020 article](#), “the unequivocal takeaway from the data is that H-1B employers are, on average, paying a premium for many of their foreign workers.” Today, the unemployment rate in computer occupations remains low, at about 2.8% through April 2020, [according to a May 2020 analysis of government occupational level data](#).

**Innovation.** Foreign-born STEM professionals have had a positive impact on the American economy. As described in a [July 2019 economic study on the impact of highly-skilled STEM immigration on the U.S. economy](#), the foreign-born share of STEM professionals in the United States increased from about 16% to 24% over the period 2000 to 2015 creating an estimated benefit of \$103 billion for American workers almost all “attributed to the generation of ideas associated with high-skilled STEM immigration which promotes the development of new technologies that increase the productivity and wages of U.S.-born workers.” An [economic report on global talent and U.S. immigration policy published in April 2020](#) highlights that when looking at the net global migration of inventors from 2000 to 2010 China and the United States are at opposite ends of the spectrum, where China receives virtually no immigrant inventors and instead possesses the largest number of natives moving to other countries to become inventors elsewhere. The United States dwarfs all other 26 advanced economies in the world in welcoming new inventors, with about ten times that of Germany, the next highest country. Indeed, economists from [George Borjas in June 1986](#) (National Bureau of Economic Research) to [those at the Census Bureau and George Mason University in February 2019](#) (IZA - Institute for Labor Economics) to [William Kerr in April 2020](#) (Harvard Business School) have consistently found that for immigrants coming to America their propensity toward innovation, as well as entrepreneurship, is higher than for U.S.-born workers. We want to continue to harness that innovation and entrepreneurship for America and Americans, and we’re sure the administration wants the same.

**Nonimmigrants.** Among the nonimmigrant classifications that play a role in providing access to this STEM workforce for American employers, three classifications have been most critical and have been tools in our toolbox for **decades**: the L-1, H-1B and F-1 nonimmigrant classifications.

- Created by Congress in 1970, over the last **50** years the L-1 visa category has been available to facilitate international transfers of existing employees to the United States within related firms. A cornerstone of business operations for those that do business both in the United States and abroad has been the ability to transfer current staff that are managers, executives, and specialized knowledge personnel across national boundaries in order to harmonize operations, expand markets, service clients, and share knowledge.



- Established in the 1952 rewrite of the nation's immigration laws, for over **65** years the H-1 visa classification has existed to allow U.S. employers to hire professionals born outside our country. Since 1990, this category has been subject to numerical limits and a labor condition application, and the category has been designated as the H-1B visa.
- In [August 1947 the Department of Justice promulgated a regulation permitting "employment for practical training"](#) for international students, after completion of the student's regular course of study. For over **70** years, a program allowing such post-completion employment authorization for international students has continued, now through Department of Homeland Security regulations governing F-1 nonimmigrants.

The stability of America's workforce – including L-1, H-1B, and F-1 nonimmigrants – cannot be more important than at this very moment when the Trump administration and the entire nation look to our companies to reinforce the backbone of the national economy.

## **IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING UNNECESSARY CHURN IN THE COLLEGE-EDUCATED STEM WORKFORCE, INCLUDING NONIMMIGRANTS**

**Churn.** Economists define “churn” as hiring for replacement, which means that a prior worker, being replaced, left voluntarily or was terminated. Turnover may come about because employers grow and shrink, but more frequently because of churn. Separations in the employment relationship that occur based solely on changed agency policy choices governing nonimmigrant employment authorization create additional churn and result in inefficiency. Thus, at this critical juncture in our nation's economic life, creating government-mandated churn in our human capital creates significant risks because the ramifications of those decisions will quickly reach into our capacity and productivity.

**L-1.** Narrowing access to L-1 intracompany transfers is a significant concern as we respond to Covid-19 challenges, because appropriate use of the L-1 classification by employers plays a direct role in supporting job creation and job retention in the United States, as well as expanding U.S. advanced manufacturing, continuing U.S.-centered research and development, increasing exports from the U.S., and encouraging foreign direct investment into the U.S. Multinational companies, of the type that might qualify to use the L-1 category, employ about one-quarter of all U.S. private sector employees. The impact of business disruption to a group of firms that play such an outsized role in the economy is significant.

With regard to U.S.-based R&D, an economist at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania assessed Department of Commerce data [in a February 2020 study and found restrictive high-skilled immigration policies encouraged multinational companies to off-shore R&D efforts](#). As the Wharton economist explains, “From a nationalistic perspective, this is problematic; if skilled foreign-born workers are at a U.S. firm's foreign affiliate instead of in the U.S., the innovative spillovers that they generate will go to another country instead.” The [National Science Foundation's 2020 reports](#) show that the U.S. performs one-quarter of global STEM R&D, the largest percentage for any single nation; that STEM R&D performed in the U.S. increased sharply in 2017, up 10% when compared to 2015 and 34% higher than 2010; that 73% of all development research in the U.S. is performed by private sector businesses; and that U.S. multinational firms are responsible for 80% of such private R&D in the U.S. Changing long-standing immigration policies risks many unintended consequences, including disruption of these positive trends.

**H-1B.** Temporarily or indefinitely eliminating or reducing the H-1B program or discouraging its use would not create or leave more jobs for U.S. natives *and* would risk reducing growth and productivity. The [University of Chicago did a survey in February 2017 through its Initiative on Global Markets](#) (IGM Forum), asking its panel of economists from Yale, MIT, Princeton, Berkeley, Harvard, and Stanford about the following premise: “If the U.S. significantly lowers the number of H-1B visas now, employment for American workers will rise materially over the next four years.” None (0) of the economists agreed with the premise, 81% disagreed, 19% were

uncertain. A [May 2017 economic study on firm dynamics and immigration](#) found that completely eliminating the H-1B category would ultimately result in a 3.7% decrease in GDP. An [August 2018 economic study on the relationship between H-1B visa petitions and the entry of new products and exit of outdated products](#) (product reallocation) concluded that firm-level analysis shows H-1B visa petitions are associated with higher rates of product reallocation. Generating product reallocation is one measure to identify where smaller, incremental innovations are occurring. In a seminal economic evaluation of H-1B visas and productivity in 219 American cities, [published in the Journal of Labor Economics in July 2015](#), economists concluded that their simulations showed an increase of H-1B visa holders in a city explained increased productivity. Specifically, the economists found that “foreign STEM growth explained between one-third and one-half of the average Total Factor Productivity growth during the period” 1990 to 2010. It seems the Trump administration should not initiate a realignment of the H-1B category to respond to a downturn in the economy, especially because history shows us that H-1B demand from employers is tightly connected to market forces.<sup>1</sup>

**OPT.** As the number of U.S. postsecondary STEM degrees attained by F-1 nonimmigrants has steadily grown, the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, to include the STEM OPT extension, has correspondingly become a significant pipeline for the U.S. STEM workforce. [As explained by CRS in November 2019](#), from school year 88-89 (the earliest year for which annual data are available) to school year 16-17 (the most recent year for which data are available) there has been a 315% increase in STEM degrees awarded in the U.S. to foreign students, most of which is at the graduate level. When the Business Roundtable of American CEOs (BRT) partnered with the Interindustry Forecasting Project of the University of Maryland (Inforum) to assess the OPT program the [resulting December 2018 report showed a negative impact to the U.S. economy should OPT participation be reduced](#). The BRT-Inforum modeling showed, among other things, a loss of 443,000 jobs over a decade, including 225,000 jobs held by native-born workers. Relatedly, [an economist's study in March 2019](#), analyzing unemployment among STEM workers in 102 metro areas, concluded that unemployment rates are lower in areas with larger numbers of F-1 nonimmigrants doing OPT as a share of workers in STEM occupations. When [the Niskanen Center reported on its OPT research in March 2019](#) its data suggest that 10 additional OPT participants working in a core-based statistical area (CBSAs are aggregated metropolitan areas) leads to 5 additional patents originating in that CBSA. The economic risk of taking steps that might dilute the utility of OPT as a pipeline is further highlighted by a [policy brief from October 2018](#) that illustrated that 22% of America’s billion-dollar start-ups had at least one immigrant founder that first came to the U.S. as an international student.

**H-4.** Lastly, we draw attention to H-4 dependent spouses of the H-1B professionals we are sponsoring for green card status. These H-4 visa holders are permitted to work when they are waiting in long immigrant visa backlogs after the sponsoring employers have completed all legal hurdles to classify the H-1B professional as an immigrant. [Economists conducted a cost-benefit analysis in April 2019 on whether H-4 spousal work authorization rules should be rescinded](#), and found that rescinding the H-4 employment authorization regulation would cost the U.S. economy some \$7.5 billion including loss of employment for American workers employed by the 2% of H-4 workers that have started their own businesses and employ 5 workers on average. The same economists found that 66% of employed H-4 visa holders held a job in a core STEM field, another 16% in business, finance, or management, and another 8% were health care professionals or health care support workers.

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<sup>1</sup> The *only* three fiscal years *since FY1997* where cap-subject H-1B petitions did not exceed the numerical limit at some time prior to the end of the fiscal year were FY2000, 2001 and 2002, years for which Congress had temporarily increased the H-1B cap to 195,000 in response to the dotcom explosion. Because the new numbers became available only as the dotcom bubble burst, cap-subject H-1B filings in those three fiscal years were 163,600, 79,100, and 78,000 respectively – with decreasing numbers, well under the cap in each successive year. Similarly, following the 2008 great recession, H-1B filings were significantly down such that the numerical limits were *not* met in April (H-1B cap-subject filings are made in April for the government’s fiscal year beginning October 1 of that calendar year). The so-called “regular cap” of 65,000 H-1B petitions was met in December 2009, January 2011, November 2011, and June 2012 for, respectively, FY2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. When the economy is stronger, numerical H-1B limits are met in April, as in calendar years 2008 and 2009 (for FY2009 and 2010) and calendar years 2014 to the present (for FY2015 to 2021).



## SIGNATORIES

1871 – Chicago’s Technology & Entrepreneurship Center	Ceva Logistics
ACE Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Institute, Inc.	Chatanooga Technology Council
Adex Medical Staffing, LLC	Chr. Hansen, Inc.
Adobe	Cisco Systems Inc.
Advanced Polymer Coatings	Citadel Drilling
airCFO	CivilTech Engineering, Inc.
Akamai Technologies	Clockwise Inc
Altair Global	Colorado Technology Association (CTA)
Amazon.com	Complete Genomics
American First Finance Inc.	Computer Measurement Group (CMG)
American Immigration Lawyers Association	Computing Technology Industry Association
Applied Value LLC	Connecticut Technology Council (CTC)
APPS Solutions inc	Consonus Health
Arch Group LLC	Consumer Technology Association
Argo AI, LLC	Contentsquare
Ariston Tek Inc	Credit Karma, Inc.
Arizona Technology Council (AZTC)	CrowdSmart
Asana	Cyclomedia Technology Inc.
Aspen Technology, Inc.	Dashlane
Association of American Universities	Dedrone
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities	Deem, Inc.
Attentive	Dell Technologies
Aulder Capital	Dematic
Aurora	Demon Oilfield Services Corp.
Avicenna Medical Systems, Inc.	Derakhshan Consulting LLC
Avventis Tech Inc	DMG MORI USA, Inc.
Axess North America	DoorDash
Baslee Engineering Solutions (BES), Inc	DotHouse Health
Bates White	Dr. Schar USA
BBVA Digital Bank - San Francisco Rep Office	Dropbox
Belcher Pharmaceuticals, LLC	DRS Engineering Inc.
Benefit Resource, Inc.	DTC Global Services LLC
BIO-key International, Inc.	E.W. Howell Co., LLC
BioBridge Global	E&M Electric and Machinery, Inc.
Biogen	Enanta Pharmaceuticals Inc
Biologique Recherche USA	Essence Corp
Bloom Energy	ETS
Bloomberg	Facebook
Bluestone Lane	Far East Metals, Inc.
Box, Inc.	Fast
Brandinc US, Inc	FEAM Maintenance/Engineering
Briteskies, LLC	Finsight Group Inc
BSA   The Software Alliance	FirstPass Global, Inc
Business Roundtable	Fitesa Simponville Inc
Cadence Design Systems, Inc.	FlagshipKansas.Tech
California Technology Council (CTC)	Forensic Fluids Laboratories
Carbon Health Technologies, Inc.	ForgeRock, Inc.
Cardone Industries Inc	Fortress Engineering Ltd.
censhare US Inc.	Furniture Design Studios, Inc

Fusion Technologies Inc	KabanaSoft LLC
FWD.us	KC Tech Council
g2o, LLC	Khan Academy
Game Prophecies, Inc.	Kleiner Perkins
Garmin International, Inc.	Knoxville Technology Council
GCP Tech	Kolla Soft Inc
Genius Minds LLC	Kong Dragon Capital Investment
Getaround	Kongsberg Digital
GitHub	L'Oreal Travel Retail Americas, Inc.
Glamsquad	Laguro, Inc.
Global Business Alliance	LANXESS Corporation
Global Engine Maintenance LLC	Lilu, Inc.
GN Hearing Care	LinkedIn
Golden Technology, Inc	Louis Dreyfus Company LLC
Google, Inc.	LUCITO
Grandison Management	Lyft
Great Point Partners	Lynk Inc.
Greater Memphis IT Council	MachiningCloud Inc
Greater Nashville Technology Council	Madrona Venture Group
Green Village Concrete INC	MANN+HUMMEL Purolator Filters LLC
GreenShape LLC	Maryland Tech Council (MTC)
greight freight llc	Masimo Corporation
Harco Manufacturing Group, LLC.	Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council (MasTLC)
HBPO North America, Inc.	Matician Inc
Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc.	MBLM
Hewlett Packard Enterprise	McMillen Jacobs Associates
Himax Imaging	Medialocate, Inc
Hired	Medium
Hirsch Bedner Associates	Microbiologics
Horizon Hydraulics	Micron Technology, Inc.
HP Inc.	Microsoft Corporation
HUMAC INC.	Mid-America Technology Alliance
I&L Investments and Management, Inc.	Millbrook Revolutionary Engineering Inc
Idaho Tech Council (ITC)	Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)
Illinois Technology Association (ITA)	Mokuni LLC
iLogic inc	Montana High-Tech Business Alliance
Information Technology Industry Council	Monzlapur New York
InfoTech Resources	MUEngineers, Inc.
Insight Venture Management LLC	NAFSA: Association of International Educators
Instacart	NAM Info Inc
Institute of International Bankers	Nasdaq
Integrated Automation Systems, LLC	NationsBenefits LLC
Intel Corporation	NAVAC Inc.
Intuit	Netgear, Inc.
IPEX Global Inc	Nevada Technology Association
Isthmus Engineering, Inc	New American Economy
Jantzen Brands Corporation	New Jersey Tech Council (NJTC)
Juniper Networks	New Mexico Technology Council (NMTC)
Jyve Corporation	New York Tech Alliance

NH Tech Alliance	Society for Human Resource Management
North Carolina Technology Association (NC TECH)	SolarEdge Technologies
Northern Virginia Technology Council	Solution BI US Corp.
Nova Credit Inc.	Sony Corporation of America
Novita Communications	SPACO-Inc
Nuvia, Inc	Spectrum Health System
NXP Semiconductors	Square
Ohio IT Association	Starburst Accelerator LLC
Okta	Sterling Software, Inc.
ON Semiconductor	Stoll America Knitting Machinery, Inc.
OnSiteIQ Inc	Sunsong North America, Inc.
Palm Beach Tech Association	TAG
PayPal	Tamp Bay Tech
PEGRight	Taro Engineering LLC
Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies (PACT)	TaskRabbit
Pirelli Tire LLC	TEAM Industries Inc.
Pittsburgh Technology Council	Tech Association of South Carolina
Postmates	Tech Birmingham
PreciseLED.INC	Tech Collective
Pronix	Tech Council of Central Pennsylvania
Propeller Health	Tech Rochester
PVH Corp (Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation)	Tech San Diego
Qnergy, Inc.	Tech Titans
quadric.io Inc	Tech:NYC
Qualcomm, Inc.	TechLauderdale
R.H. Chen Engineering	TechNet
Region Technologies Inc	TechNexus Venture Collaborative
Remedy Analytics, Inc.	Technology Association of Georgia (TAG)
Remitly	Technology Association of Iowa (TAI)
Ricoh Printing Systems America, Inc.	Technology Association of Louisville Kentucky (TALK)
Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council	Technology Association of Oregon (TAO)
Roblox Corporation	Technology Council of North Dakota
Rollbar, Inc.	Technology Councils of America (TECNA)
Salesforce	TechPoint
SAMSON Controls, Inc.	Tekion
SAP	Texas BioMedical Research Institute
SEBA International LLC	Texas Instruments
SEDA Environmental	The Marskell Group, LLC
Segment.io, Inc.	The Yes Platform, Inc.
Selldorf Architects	TheraCare of New York Inc.
Selux Diagnostics	Thumbtack
Semex USA, Inc.	Tillster, Inc.
Semiconductor Industry Association	Titan Data Group Inc.
Shielding Integrity Services Inc.	Tomorrow Water
Sigma Software LLC	Top Notch Logworks Inc.
Silicon Valley Bank	Tracker Corp
Silicon Valley Leadership Group	Tri Marine Fish Company, LLC
Simulations Plus, Inc.	Trinity Health
SK hynix memory solutions America	Turbo Air, Inc.
Slack Technologies	Turo
SLK America, Inc.	Twitter

U.S. Chamber of Commerce	Wisconsin Technology Council (WTC)
Utah Technology Council	Woodbridge Group
V Plus O Communications	Workday, Inc.
VEB Solutions, Inc.	World Fresh Produce Inc.
Venture Home Solar LLC	Worldwide ERC
VigiLanz Corporation	WorldWide HealthStaff Solutions Ltd.
VMWare	Xero
Voss USA Inc.	YOOBIC Inc.
Waymo	Zillow
Webber, LLC (a Ferrovia company)	ZOLLER Inc
West Coast Consulting	Zoom Video Communications, Inc.
Wi-Tronix, LLC	Zymergen, Inc.



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

June 22, 2020

Governor Asa Hutchinson  
State of Arkansas  
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 250  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

Thank you for your June 9, 2020 letter requesting a carve out for all essential workers if an Executive Order is issued on nonimmigrant visas (including H-1Bs). President Donald Trump has asked that I respond on his behalf.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has no greater responsibility than ensuring the safety and security of our country. Responding to the pandemic requires everyone to work within rapidly changing, complex circumstances that create a variety of situations and conditions unique to individuals and communities.

We recognize that there are immigration-related challenges that individuals, employers, and others face as a direct result of the national emergency. We carefully analyze these issues and leverage our resources to effectively address these challenges within our existing authorities. DHS continues to act to protect the American people and our communities and is considering a number of policies and procedures to improve the employment opportunities of U.S. workers during this pandemic.

While additional travel restrictions are being contemplated, it is important for us to emphasize that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) continues to accept and process petitions and applications for immigration benefits. Our primary goal is to ensure the safety of the public and our employees as the situation evolves. As of June 4, 2020, certain USCIS offices resumed non-emergency, face-to-face services to the public, with appropriate precautions to protect our workforce and the public. Our workforce continues to perform mission-essential duties, and we provide emergency services for certain situations. However, USCIS cannot speculate on a potential second Executive Order that has not been issued.

Our website and outreach efforts provide guidance, resources, and information to the public on the actions and policies we are implementing through these uncertain times. As we announced in our website, several options are available to nonimmigrants to extend their stay or

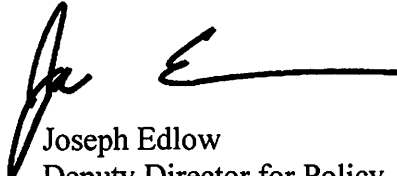
Governor Asa Hutchinson

Page 2

change their status. For policy updates, operational changes, and COVID-19 information, please visit [www.uscis.gov/coronavirus](http://www.uscis.gov/coronavirus).

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative and Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,



Joseph Edlow  
Deputy Director for Policy