



The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
United States House  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer,

As construction industry and infrastructure leaders and members of the bipartisan American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC), we write to you with great urgency in support of legislation that would provide a path to citizenship and, minimally, work permits for undocumented workers in the U.S. in order to address dire labor shortages that are a contributing factor to unmet consumer demand and rising inflation -- issues that may be amplified by the bipartisan infrastructure law.

The immigration proposal now pending would allow about 7 million temporary permits for immigrants without documents to remain in the U.S. and work. This is a good first step towards easing the need for good workers. But we need more. Congress must pass permanent immigration solutions so that President Biden's landmark, bipartisan, \$1.2 trillion infrastructure investment program, which we greatly support, can be completed in a timely manner and help our economy during the post-COVID-19 period. Studies show permanent legal status for America's 11 million undocumented immigrants would add **\$121 billion per year** into the U.S. economy each year, yielding an additional **\$31 billion** in federal, state and local tax revenues.

Indeed, immigrant workers are a critical component for calming the current hike in inflation. Labor shortages result in construction delays, higher production costs, and lower inventory levels, which all lead to inflation. Why are we not allowing immigrants who have lived here for 20 years on average, and have U.S.-citizen children, apply for permanent legalization and citizenship? As an ABIC battleground [poll](#) showed, voters support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants by a 3-to-1 margin, even if part of a reconciliation bill advanced by one political party.

From our standpoint, temporary permits are worthy but offer no assurance that our employees can stabilize their lives with their families and grow their careers with us. As we have seen with

the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, their lives are in limbo, wondering if a new presidential action or court order could lead to their deportations to countries they do not know.

As you schedule votes in coming days and weeks, remember that immigrants are the solution, not the problem, to growing our economy and bringing down inflation. They are worthy of long-term solutions as well.

Sincerely,

Steve Chanen, President & CEO, Chanen Construction Company, Inc. - Arizona

Raul Estrada, CEO, Marcer Construction - Texas

Stan Marek, CEO, Marek Family of Companies - Texas

J. Doug Pruitt, Retired Chairman, Sundt Construction - Arizona

Kevin Smith, Vice President, Unforgettable Coatings, Inc. - Utah

Khalid Muneer, President, Jupiter Properties Inc., Orlando, Florida

Sergio Pino, President & CEO, Century Homebuilders Group, Miami, Florida

Kerem Durdag, President and Chief Operating Officer, GWI, Inc., Maine

Mark Ouellette, CEO, Axiom Technologies, Maine

Jacqueline Gomez, Executive Director, Hispanic American Construction Industry Association