March 4, 2013

Senator Lindsey Graham 290 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4001



Dear Senator Graham:

As you know, America's immigration system is broken and does not serve the best interests of our citizens nor our businesses. Improvements to our nation's immigration policy are long overdue. We recognize that a comprehensive approach is needed to fix our immigration system, with sensible laws and enforceable guidelines that will help protect our borders and meet the needs of our nation, both socially and economically. You have provided steady, common sense leadership on this issue and we encourage you to continue doing so.

The Myrtle Beach area is still a very seasonal economy, requiring far more workers during the summer season than any other time of year. Businesses such as hotels, restaurants and other service-providers must temporarily increase their workforce to accommodate the needs of the tourist influx. These temporary workers are crucial to a business's ability to operate during peak seasons and retain full-time staff year-round. Without adequate numbers of temporary employees, businesses are faced with increased costs (e.g. overtime) and/or cutting back on the level and scope of services. We support legislative remedies that:

- Promote our national security interests by enhancing our ability to secure our nation's borders;
- Address our future economic needs for both skilled & unskilled workers through sensible immigration levels and effective work visas programs tied to market demands. Programmatic changes that create a functional, controlled system meeting workforce needs can increase national security and reduce illegal immigration by allowing qualified international workers to fill temporary jobs when sufficient numbers of American workers cannot be found;
- Enable work visa programs with inflexible caps should allow for a "returning worker exemption", otherwise seasonal destinations may be inadvertently (and unfairly) excluded from participating;
- Ensure an efficient, reliable national employee verification system;
- Provide an appropriate, sensible resolution to the current situation of 11+ million undocumented immigrants living/working in the United States today. Any proposed handling of undocumented immigrants that allows some immigrants to stay in the U.S. must incorporate strict conditions, such as learning the English language, paying civil fines and back taxes;
- Reduce the time required for travel visa processing to a reasonable wait time, which will enhance international travel to the U.S.

Please continue to lead our nation forward on this issue by pressing your colleagues for true immigration reform. It is both necessary and long overdue.

With warmest regards, I am,

Brail Dean

Sincerely,

Brad Dean President & CEO