

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Lamar Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 1772, the "Legal Workforce Act," which would address a critical component of comprehensive reform by creating a workable employment verification (E-Verify) system.

Thank you for your leadership on the E-Verify issue. Important for our members, provisions in H.R. 1772 would preempt state and local laws mandating either the use of E-Verify or the establishment or continuation of state or local employment verification schemes. These provisions would provide the clarity and consistency employers seek that is absent today. This bill would also mirror the existing Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) rules for federal contractors using E-Verify on the current workforce, would create a clear safe harbor for good faith employers, and would establish an integrated I-9 and E-Verify system available both electronically and via telephone.

The Chamber recognizes that H.R. 1772 balances many competing interests, and looks forward to continue working with you to discuss and overcome any roadblocks that may arise as this bill is considered by Congress.

However, fixing America's broken immigration system will require more than a workable employment verification program; it requires reforming the construct of the existing legal immigration system, including workable guest worker programs, strengthening border security while promoting travel and tourism, and establishing a process where undocumented immigrants can earn a legal status.

The Chamber looks forward to working with you and Congress to pass legislation needed to reform our immigration system.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary