

February 27, 2008

Leadership Council

Dear Representative:

Anna Burger
Chair
Change to Win
International
Secretary-Treasurer
Service Employees
International Union (SEIU)

Edgar Romney
Secretary-Treasurer
Change to Win
Executive Vice President
UNITE HERE

Joseph Hansen
International President
United Food and
Commercial Workers
International Union (UFCW)

James P. Hoffa
General President
International Brotherhood
of Teamsters (IBT)

Geralyn Lutty
International Vice President
United Food and
Commercial Workers
International Union (UFCW)

Douglas J. McCarron
General President
United Brotherhood
of Carpenters
and Joiners
of America (UBC)

Terence M. O'Sullivan
General President
Laborers' International Union
of North America (LIUNA)

Bruce Raynor
General President
UNITE HERE

Arturo S. Rodriguez
President
United Farm Workers
of America (UFW)

Andrew L. Stern
International President
Service Employees
International Union (SEIU)

Change to Win, a federation of seven unions with six million members, believes that the fight for fair treatment and legal protection for immigrant workers in this country is inextricably linked to the fight to restore better wages, benefits, and working conditions for all workers. To help make the American Dream a reality for all, it is our continued hope that the changes in Washington will lead to a progressive overhaul of our immigration system. Recently, news reports about the potential movement of piecemeal immigration legislation have surfaced. **We are particularly concerned that issues of this complexity and importance must be addressed through regular order, not through motions to recommit or extraordinary parliamentary procedures such as discharge petitions.** With this in mind, our federation has some core priorities that we believe must be addressed if any immigration bills move forward this year.

First, we support "AgJOBS" (Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act of 2007), a targeted, balanced program to meet the needs of the agriculture industry and lift up immigrant workers in this industry. Any immigration legislation moving forward this year, whether it is an H-2B extension or another measure, must be paired with this critical, reasonable, bipartisan measure.

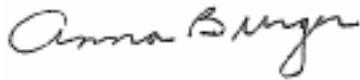
Next, we strongly believe that the H-2B guest worker program should not be extended without adding robust worker protections. These protections must, at a minimum, include: strong prevailing wage protections for these workers; requirements for employer certification to the Department of Labor that the employer reached out to unions and state workforce agencies to look for American workers first before hiring an H-2B guest worker; the ability for U.S. workers to go to court when overlooked by an employer; and stronger oversight and required registration by foreign labor contractors and labor recruiters with the Department of Labor. These elements will help protect U.S. and foreign workers treated unfairly by H-2B employers, and are sorely needed in order to reform this program.

Finally, we believe that Congress should recommit itself to finding solutions to our broken immigration system and the millions of undocumented workers and children living in our country today. These workers need a legal means to work and a realistic path to citizenship. An enforcement-only approach, such as the one contained in the SAVE Act (the Secure American through Verification and Enforcement Act of 2007), will not fix the system and will only push undocumented workers further underground. The SAVE Act contains a deeply flawed employment authorization verification system. Such a rapid expansion of the underlying Basic Pilot program-without serious reforms and safeguards-will not have the desired effect of reducing illegal immigration, and will only lead to erroneous firings and restricted job opportunities for legal immigrant and

U.S.-born workers. This will make a bad situation worse, creating even more opportunities for bad employers to discriminate against and exploit U.S. and immigrant workers.

We urge the Democratic Congress to pass AgJOBS, a reasonable bipartisan bill; reform existing guest worker programs like H-2B to include critical worker protections; and reject measures that will harm U.S. workers and fail to fix our broken immigration system. We will oppose the advancement of measures that violate our core principles. We hope Congress builds towards a platform of real solutions and stands firm against any attempt to circumvent regular order on this critical national issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna Burger".

Anna Burger, Chair