



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Thursday, January 03, 2008

**CONTACT:**

George Tzamaras

202-216-2410

[gtzamaras@aila.org](mailto:gtzamaras@aila.org)

***HERE WE GO AGAIN -- USCIS REACHES H-2B CAP  
FOR SECOND HALF OF FISCAL YEAR 2008***

WASHINGTON, DC – Today’s announcement by Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that it has received a sufficient number of petitions to reach the congressionally mandated H-2B cap for the second half of Fiscal Year 2008 (FY2008) demonstrates once again how Congress’ failure to pass fair and reasonable immigration policy harms the growing needs of an expanding U.S. economy. Service industries such as hospitality (restaurants and hotels), landscaping, construction, and seafood processing are among the most damaged by Congress’ inaction.

“This continuing failure to connect the dots between meeting valid labor needs and our immigration laws is inexcusable. Placing America at a competitive disadvantage is unacceptable,” said Kathleen Campbell Walker, President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). “Maxing out on a cap four months before the applicable period even begins shows how little relation there is between immigration policy and the needs of the economy.”

Walker added, “This issue of whether the government should allow more seasonal workers to be granted visas is a no brainer that should have been solved by now. An increase in this cap, tied to documented labor needs, would only serve to help make legality the norm and enable U.S. employers to hire needed workers. But Congress is unfortunately unable to muster the political gumption to proceed with even the most basic solutions. Just last month, Congress passed on a chance to add a one-year fix to the H-2B nonimmigrant visa program to the \$517 billion omnibus spending bill that passed the House.”

According to the USCIS statement, USCIS will reject petitions for new H-2B workers seeking employment start dates prior to October 1, 2008, that arrive after January 2, 2008. USCIS will apply a computer-generated random selection process to all petitions which are subject to the cap and were received on January 2, 2008.

###

*The American Immigration Lawyers Association is the national association of immigration lawyers established to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members.*

For more information call George Tzamaras at 202-216-2410 or Annie Wilson at 202-216-2435