



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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June 27, 2007

Dear Senator,

As President of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), AFL-CIO, I am writing regarding the Senate's consideration of S. 1639, the comprehensive immigration reform bill. In this regard, IFPTE supports the bipartisan amendment sponsored by Senators McCaskill (D-MO), Durbin (D-IL), and Grassley (R-IA) dealing with H-1B and L-1 Visa reform. Contrarily, IFPTE opposes an expected amendment by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) to effectively do away with any cap on H-1B Visas.

While IFPTE remains opposed to any increase in the annual allotment of H-1B Visas, the union is pleased that the McCaskill/Durbin/Grassley amendment will be considered. Clearly, the overhauls called for in this amendment are much needed revisions to these damaging visa programs. Among the positives included in the amendment are (1) the requirement that the Department of Labor determine the prevailing wage and skill level of a job to be filled by H-1B and L-1 workers (versus the employer), which employers will be forced to pay visa recipients; (2) the prevention of so-called "body shop" companies from outsourcing H-1B and L-1 visa holders to businesses that are under no obligation to abide by the limited rules that do apply to these programs; (3) the requirement that companies wishing to apply for an H-1B Visa holder first advertise the job opening for 30 days on a Department of Labor website; and (4) preventing the hiring of H-1B employees if a company already employs more than 50 people and more than 50% of their employees are H-1B and/or L-1 visa holders.

IFPTE believes that the McCaskill/Durbin/Grassley amendment is a huge step in the right direction and urges you to support it.

However, IFPTE is dubious of the Cantwell amendment, which aims to effectively eliminate the cap on H-1B Visas all together. As was described in our letter to the Senate on June 6<sup>th</sup>, this amendment will most assuredly "lead to the displacement of thousands upon thousands of current and potential American high-tech workers." IFPTE is opposed to any increase at all in the annual allotment of H-1B Visas and requests that you vote against the Cantwell amendment.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or IFPTE Legislative Director Matt Biggs, at (301) 565-9016.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,  
President

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