



Dated: 10/19/11

H-2B ALERT – PLANET Requests You Contact Your Members Of Congress Now

On October 12, Reps. Rodney Alexander (R-La.), Rob Wittman (R-Va.), Charles Boustany (R-La.), and Andy Harris (R-Md.) introduced legislation (H.R. 3162) that would prohibit the Department of Labor (DOL) from implementing the H-2B wage rule and finalizing the H-2B proposed rule. PLANET believes that Congress needs to send DOL a strong message about the severe economic impacts associated with both rules by garnering numerous cosponsors of this legislation.

Therefore, PLANET is requesting that you call your U.S. representative today and ask him or her to cosponsor this legislation. Please also call your two senators and tell them your concerns with the DOL regulations and ask them to consider introducing legislation similar to H.R. 3162. You can reach them through the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 225-3121. Ask to speak to the staff person who handles immigration issues. Tell him or her about the importance of the H-2B program to your business and the community you serve. Tell them what the rules mean to your company and to your American workers. Also, go to PLANET's Legislative Action Center and send the letters added for this purpose.

<http://www.congressweb.com/cweb2/index.cfm/siteid/PLN/action/TakeAction.Contact/lettergroupid/79>

"The Read About This Issue" section in our Legislative Action Center will have the H.R. 3162 bill and the "Dear Colleague" letter that was sent to all House members.

Late last month (as noted in the 10/3/11 WALP Watch), the DOL delayed the implementation of the wage rule from September 30 to November 30. In issuing the delay, the DOL cited the H-2B lawsuit brought by PLANET, the National Hispanic Landscape Alliance, some individual landscape companies, and other allies. PLANET expects the judge to issue a ruling in that case shortly. The delay followed the September 21 Senate Appropriations Committee's passage of a 2012 funding bill that would prevent the DOL from enforcing the wage rule. A draft bill released by the House Appropriations Committee would prohibit the DOL from implementing both the wage rule and the proposed rule. While the delay is helpful, PLANET states that we need to continue to fight these rules in Congress and in the courts.

Congress is not expected to act on appropriations legislation until late this year. According to PLANET, we need to, therefore, compel Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the DOL from implementing the wage rule prior to November 30. They also believe we need to prevent the DOL from finalizing the proposed rule. If you agree, please call your senators and members of Congress today and ask them to cosponsor H.R. 3162.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Tom Delaney, PLANET Director of Government Affairs at tomdelaney@landcarenetwork.org.

Questions on any of the topics addressed in this "WALP Watch"? Contact the WALP Office at info@walp.org or (425) 967-0729.