



TO: LOCAL UNION AND JOINT COUNCIL
PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND POLITICAL
COORDINATORS

FROM: CHRISTY BAILEY, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF FIELD & POLITICAL ACTION

FRED MCLUCKIE, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND
REGULATION

DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2013

RE: Comprehensive Immigration Reform in the
113th Congress

Comprehensive reform of the US immigration system is a top priority for the President and Congress in the 113th Congress. Our broken immigration system undermines the safety and prosperity of all workers, immigrant and native born, documented and undocumented alike. The Teamsters Union stands ready to advocate for a comprehensive reform which reflects the understanding that immigrant rights are workers' rights and workers' rights are immigrant rights. We are hopeful that this is the year in which a solution can be achieved.

Enclosed, you will find a copy of the resolution passed at the last convention of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters outlining our Union's position on comprehensive immigration reform. Also enclosed is a copy of the joint principles for reform agreed to by the AFL-CIO and Change to Win in 2009.

Broadly, the Teamsters Union believes that a comprehensive reform of the immigration system must include the following five interconnected pieces. This framework is further detailed in the attached documents and in the unified union movement's framework for comprehensive immigration reform - *"Immigration for Shared Prosperity: A Framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform"*:

1. An independent commission to assess and manage future flows, based on labor market shortages that are determined on the basis of actual need;
2. A secure and effective worker authorization mechanism;
3. Rational operational control of the border;

February 20, 2013

Page 2 of 2

4. Adjustment of status for the current undocumented population including a fair pathway to earned citizenship; and
5. Improvement, not expansion, of temporary worker programs, limited to temporary or seasonal, not permanent, jobs.

The Teamsters Union strongly believes that no one piece of this solution is any more important than another. Further, the goal of truly comprehensive reform will not be achieved if a final bill passed by Congress fails to adequately address any one of these five areas or if any piece of this solution is used as a political ploy to aggravate or obstruct another. Further, the Teamsters Union will not support a bill which fails to protect ALL workers by failing to address all of these interconnected pieces thoughtfully and fully.

The national AFL-CIO is kicking off a nationwide grassroots effort to engage union members in this issue. To that end, they will be holding meetings in various locations. We will continue to update you on those events and the Teamsters Union's efforts on this issue.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Field and Political Action at (202) 624-6993 for more information.

CB:FM/sm

Attachments